

SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIVISION OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PLAN  
2015-2019

ANNUAL PROGRESS AND SERVICES REPORT  
2019

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	MISSION STATEMENT .....	3
II.	INTRODUCTION .....	5
III.	SERVICE CONTINUUM .....	7
IV.	STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION .....	11
V.	PREVENTION EDUCATION AND PARENTING SUPPORT .....	15
VI.	SAFETY .....	20
	CAPTA .....	25
	Citizen Review Panel Report .....	29
VII.	PERMANENCY AND WELL BEING .....	31
	• Promoting Safe and Stable Families .....	44
	• Caseworker Visits .....	46
	• Adoption Incentive Activities And Support Services .....	47
VIII.	HEALTH CARE OVERSIGHT AND COORDINATION .....	58
IX.	ICWA AND COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH THE TRIBES ..	64
X.	FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT DILIGENT RECRUITMENT .....	89
XI.	STAFF TRAINING .....	101
XII.	COLLABORATION WITH THE COURTS .....	105
XIII.	OUTCOMES MANAGEMENT (QA & CQI) .....	107
XIV.	CHAFEE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD.....	113
XV.	EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS .....	153
XVI.	STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM .....	161
XVII.	WORKFORCE INFORMATION .....	164
XVIII.	JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA .....	166
XIX.	FINANCIAL REPORTING .....	167
XX.	DISASTER PLAN.....	168

## **I. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MISSION STATEMENT**

The following are the Department's Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, and Goals, along with the Core Values of Child Protection Services.

### **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES' MISSION**

Strengthening and supporting individuals and families by promoting cost effective and comprehensive services in connection with our partners which foster independent and healthy families.

#### **Our Guiding Principles**

We believe families have the right to be safe and secure.

We believe in providing opportunities and choices that support the needs of families through available and accessible services.

We believe in collaborative communications, teamwork, partnerships and trust for essential family services.

We believe in respecting individual and cultural differences by treating people with dignity, fairness and respect.

We believe in focusing on meaningful outcomes, continuous quality improvement and using technology to be efficient and effective.

We believe in professional and well-trained staff that is competent, accountable and empowered.

We believe in providing quality, timely customer service through the "no wrong door" approach.

#### **Our Goals**

Goal 1: Ensure access to services for our customers.

Goal 2: Promote and support the health, well being, and safety of our customers.

Goal 3: Foster partnerships to maximize resources for our customers.

Goal 4: Support customers in achieving meaningful outcomes.

Goal 5: Strengthen and align human resources to meet our mission.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES CORE VALUES**

### **CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES PURPOSE STATEMENT**

Working together to bring safety, permanency, and well-being to families to build a better tomorrow.

### **OUR CORE VALUES**

Child Protection Services decided that along with clarity of purpose we needed to define our core values so they are understood, accepted and applied by everyone in CPS. Child Protection Services staff believes that Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, and Accountability are the core values of South Dakota Child Protection Services. Our commitment to these core values will guide our thoughts and our actions as helpers, colleagues, and employees. These core values are understood, accepted, and to be applied by all Child Protection Services staff.

#### **RESPECT**

Acknowledge, understand, and accept differences in self and others  
Value everyone equally; Demonstrate kindness  
Live with openness and empathy; Honor others  
Follow the Golden Rule

#### **INTEGRITY**

Treat each person and situation with fairness and compassion  
Be honest with self and others  
Truth to self and others guides interactions  
Walk your talk; Be courageous  
Build trust by being supportive, by listening, and by being responsive

#### **TEAMWORK**

Sense of belonging  
Appreciation for everyone's roles  
Partner toward a common goal through collaboration to make a positive difference  
Be creative and free to express varied viewpoints  
Communicate effectively through active listening, informing, and feedback

#### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Quality responses in a timely, consistent, and accurate manner  
Commit to and meet or exceed standards and expectations regarding agency policies and procedures.  
Envision and be proactive for the future  
Fulfill responsibility for those we serve  
Commit to, develop, and demonstrate professional competencies

## II. INTRODUCTION

### Organizational Structure Overview

The Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection services is the division designated to administer the Title IV-B and IV-E programs, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act grant, John H. Chaffee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, and the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention program. The Division of Child Protection Services (CPS) is a state administered and state supervised child welfare system. The Department of Social Services is led by the Department Secretary. Under the Department Secretary is the Division Director of CPS. The CPS Division Director oversees the statewide provision of CPS programs and services. The Assistant Division Director is under the direct supervision of the Division Director. State Office of Child Protection Services Program Specialists serve as advisors and consultants to the Division staff in specific program areas and are involved in the administration of funding, promotion, and evaluation of those programs. CPS is divided into seven geographical regions. Each Region is led by a Regional Manager who is directly involved with the management of staff in the Region and responsible for overseeing the region-wide provision of services in all program areas. CPS has twenty offices statewide that provide CPS services. Each office within a Region has a supervisor or supervisors who provide clinical and direct supervision to Family Services Specialists and Social Service Aides that provide services in the program areas.

The core components of CPS and the functions within those components include:

- Administration of the Parenting Education Partners network.
- Intake-receipt of child abuse and neglect reports Request for Services (RFSs) including collateral contacts prior to screening and assignment for an Initial Family Assessment (IFA).
- Initial Family Assessment-process used to assess threats to danger and maltreatment in assigned child abuse and neglect reports through interviews with children, parents, and through other information sources.
- Ongoing Services-Protective Capacity Assessment (PCA) case planning and evaluation, and services provided for in-home and foster care cases where there are threats to child safety.
- Permanency Planning Services-providing placement resources, permanency planning, independent living and supports for children placed in out-of-home care.
- Adoption Services-placement to children who have a goal of adoption when parental rights are terminated and post-adoption services for children in adoptive placement.
- Licensing- licensing and regulation of child welfare and child placement agencies that provide placement services to children with emotional and behavioral needs.

These functions are completed through the statewide regional and office structure.

CPS directly provides child protection services for five of the nine South Dakota tribes. The tribes directly served by CPS are the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and Yankton Sioux Tribe. The four tribes that provide their own full array of child welfare services are the Flandreau Sioux Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and the Oglala Sioux Tribe. CPS has IV-E Agreements with Flandreau and Standing Rock and full contracts with Sisseton Wahpeton and Oglala.

Each of the tribes has tribal courts and tribal law enforcement. There are a number of similarities with the protocol with the courts and law enforcement with the five tribes compared to non-tribal law enforcement and courts. The similarities include the option for joint investigations, provisions for law enforcement to take emergency custody, and A/N actions through the court with the court being able to give custody, care and placement responsibility to CPS. The FBI and US Attorney's Office also have jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute criminal child abuse on the reservations.

A more detailed description of each of the Department's divisions and the programs each provides can be found on the Department's website at [www.state.sd.us/social/social.html](http://www.state.sd.us/social/social.html)

The accompanying plan represents the consolidation of Title IV-B Subparts I and II, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Plan, and the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Plan.

#### Public Access to the APSR

The APSR is on the state website on the CPS page.

<http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/>

Questions about the availability of the APSR can be directed to:

Pamela Bennett  
Assistant Director  
Department of Social Services  
Division of Child Protection Services  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre SD

605-773-3227

[Pamela.Bennett@state.sd.us](mailto:Pamela.Bennett@state.sd.us)

#### Sharing the APSR with the Tribes

CPS has provided each APSR to the tribes, and this APSR will be shared with the tribes once it is approved by ACF.

#### Disaster Plan

South Dakota was not affected by any disaster in the last year.

### **III. SERVICE CONTINUUM**

CPS provides a full range of child welfare services statewide. Services are provided in the tribal jurisdictions either directly by CPS or under Agreements in which the particular Tribe provides the full array of services. The services provided by CPS include parenting education, intake for child abuse and neglect reports, 24/7 emergency response, assessment of abuse and neglect and child safety, ongoing protective services, reunification services to families, independent living services, permanency planning services, and licensing of child welfare agencies. CPS uses the Comprehensive Safety Intervention (CSI) model to respond to reports of abuse and neglect. The CSI is a safety driven model integrated throughout the components of the services to families. CPS coordinates these services with community and tribal providers.

#### **Intake**

The first phase of the CSI is Intake. State law requires reports of abuse and neglect to be made either to the county State's Attorney, law enforcement or CPS. The county State's Attorney and law enforcement are then required to inform CPS about reports they receive. CPS provides intake during normal business hours Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Since the submission of the CFSP, CPS restructured the Intake system. Intake was regionalized allowing for specialized Family Services Specialists (FSS) to be housed in a regionally based office. The restructure discontinued the regional structure, which directed intakes to a regional toll free phone number, and moved to a more centralized structure with a single toll free number. The new process also includes an automated phone system which helps in distribution and management of calls. Intake Specialists are all within the same unit even though they are located in different offices.

CPS coordinates the process for gathering and screening of information for Intake with various agencies. Between 5:00 pm and 8:00 am on weekdays, weekends, and on state holidays CPS staff is on call for emergency response to reports of abuse and neglect, which is coordinated with local law enforcement. CPS is able to access information on criminal court convictions through the Unified Judicial System that provides information related to determining issues with child safety during the Intake process. CPS also networks and consults with key community and tribal stakeholders who could have relevant information about family history. A number of jurisdictions across the state have community and tribally based Child Protection Teams and Multidisciplinary Teams for the purposes of assisting in the investigation and treatment of child abuse and neglect. CPS offices are also able to obtain collateral information from selected mandatory reporters to obtain relevant background information related to reports of abuse and neglect.

CPS uses the Child Maltreatment Screening and Response Determination to "triage" RFS assignments based on child safety and vulnerability. The Determination provides a structured decision-making process for Supervisors and Family Services Specialists designated as Screeners to assist staff performing Intake duties in the initial determination of child safety and vulnerability which then drives CPS's timeframes for initial contact. CPS also uses the Structured Team Response process, which involves multiple staff input, to assist in the screening decision-making process in some regions.

#### **Initial Family Assessment**

CPS and law enforcement have the authority under state law to investigate child abuse and neglect reports. CPS and local law enforcement have protocol in place regarding coordination of investigations of abuse and neglect depending on child safety and whether the report involves a potential criminal issue. The Initial Family Assessment (IFA) is the assessment process used by CPS when a Request for Services is assigned. The IFA places the emphasis for decision-making regarding intervention on impending and present danger threats to child safety rather than the

substantiation of an incident. The IFA is supplemented with processes for Present Danger Plans (PDP), Safety Plan Determinations, Conditions for Return, and In Home Safety Plans. The PDP allows CPS to consider an alternative to children being placed in CPS custody during the completion of the IFA when it is indicated the child is unsafe due to present danger threats. CPS uses the PDP to explore with the family possible ways of controlling the danger threats to child safety. The parents can voluntarily allow the children to be cared for by other caretakers mutually agreed upon between the parent and CPS pending the completion of the IFA. Another option during the completion of the IFA is removal of the alleged maltreating caregiver. Safety planning is used following the completion of the IFA when threats to child safety exist in the home. The use of a Safety Plan gives the parent and CPS additional time to make better determinations during the ongoing services phase as to what behavioral changes and services are needed to help the parent and CPS manage child safety. The most intrusive Safety Plan is when a child is removed from the home and placed in the custody of CPS because danger threats cannot be managed with the child in the home. An important component of the Safety Plan requires coordination with other stakeholders who can be part of the Safety Plan. The Safety Plan providers may be other family members, treatment providers, school representatives, day care providers, etc.

### Ongoing Services

CPS believes case decisions need to be based on an ongoing analysis of safety. The Protective Capacity Assessment (PCA) is the ongoing process within the CSI model that occurs between CPS and the parents. The PCA emphasizes self-determination and facilitates case planning with the family based on danger threats, the protective capacities of the parents, and needed behavior change. This focuses case planning on behavior change rather than just the incident or compliance through the development and enhancement of caregiver protective capacities. The PCA is used with both in-home cases and cases where the child is placed in the custody of CPS in an out of home safety plan.

CPS works with the parents during the PCA process to determine what must change and what services are necessary to achieve these behavioral changes. The PCA Case Plan is developed around the necessary services and includes roles, responsibilities, and time frames for those who are involved in the plan. South Dakota is an expansive, rural state with a small population base. The availability of services to families varies depending on the particular geographical area of the state. The PCA process encourages the parent to lead the determination of what services they believe are necessary to make behavior changes, and encourages the utilization of natural services identified by the family; e.g. tribal elders as counselors. CPS facilitates parent's access to services through collaboration with service providers, assistance with working with service providers, assistance with transportation, paying for expenses for services not covered through other means, and assistance in addressing other issues that may create barriers for families to access services. The PCA Case Plan Evaluation is used by CPS through communication and contact with the family members and communication and coordination with service providers to evaluate the Case Plan progress to assess whether the diminished protective capacities are being enhanced, and subsequently, whether danger threats are being controlled.

### Placement Services

CPS provides placement services when a child is placed in the custody of CPS by either law enforcement or the courts. Placement options for these out of home safety plans include kinship (relative) care, fictive kin (non-relative) care, child welfare agencies licensed by CPS, and in some instances, out-of-state placement resources. Licensed child welfare agencies include family foster care, child placement agencies, Group Care Centers for Minors (this includes shelter care facilities), Residential Treatment Centers, and Intensive Residential Treatment Centers. Residential treatment programs are also available for children with needs related to substance abuse, mental health, and developmental disabilities.

CPS considers placement with relatives a priority and state law includes provisions requiring relative placement to be a first consideration when a child is placed. Kinship home studies are completed through a contract with a private agency. The kinship study process includes background checks and the assessment of the capacity of kin related to the needs of the child and determination of the prospective caregiver's ability to provide a safe home based on identification and evaluation of their existing protective capacities. CPS can consider an expedited placement with a relative kin or fictive kin soon after the child is placed in care before a home study is completed if the child has a substantial connection to the kin provider, and if the necessary safety determinations can be made.

CPS provides supervision, case planning, permanency planning services, and independent living services to children in CPS custody. When a child is removed from the caretaker, CPS must have contact with the child within 24 hours of placement (kinship or foster care) and weekly for the first month after placement. After the first month, the FSS is to have at least monthly visits with that child. CPS completes the Child Assessment Case Plan within 60 days of the child being placed in care. The case planning process emphasizes the involvement of parents, the child, foster parent, and others who have a significant role in the family. The Child Assessment Case Plan is used to assess and document the child's needs, determine the services and supports needed and document the efforts made in meeting the child's needs, assuring stability and facilitating permanency. CPS uses the Child Case Plan Evaluation to assess progress and make adjustments in the plan. CPS works in coordination with the tribal ICWA programs and other tribal resources when the child is affiliated with a Tribe. These efforts are described under the section on ICWA and collaboration with the Tribes. Some of the additional tools CPS uses to promote stability and permanency for children in care and enhance family involvement include Placement Team Meetings, Team Decision-Making Meetings, Family Group Conferencing, Permanency Planning Team Meetings, Permanency Round Tables, APPLA meetings, and concurrent planning.

### Permanency Planning Services

When reunification is not successful, CPS makes concerted efforts to place children in an alternative permanent placement. CPS considers placement with relatives as a priority and makes ongoing efforts to locate relative placement resources. CPS provides subsidies for guardianship using state funds and through the Guardianship Assistance Program. CPS provides financial and medical subsidies and post-adoption services to children and their adoptive families. A majority of adoptions and guardianships are with the children's foster parents and relatives. CPS also places children and youth in Another Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (APPLA) as an alternative when adoption and guardianship are not the permanent plan and APPLA is the best option for the youth over age 16.

CPS provides support to placement resources and regular visitation to assure the stability, safety, and well-being of children in placement. CPS makes efforts to assure the health, education, connections and physical needs of children are met while in foster care. These efforts are documented in the Child Case Plan and the caseworker narratives.

CPS uses a variety of planning meetings to assist in permanency decisions and permanency planning. Those include Placement Team Meetings, Concurrent Planning meetings, Family Group Conferencing, and Team meetings, and Permanency Round Tables. . A particular type of meeting is used based on the objective for the meeting.

### Licensing

State law requires Child Welfare Agencies, which provide foster care, residential placement services, and adoption, to be licensed. CPS is the entity that is responsible for licensing Child Welfare Agencies and monitoring Child Welfare Agencies' compliance with licensing standards. CPS has processes in place to assure placement resources meet safety requirements and to assure licensing standards are consistently applied to all placement resources.

#### Information System

CPS has a functioning SACWIS called Family and Children Information System (FACIS). FACIS provides CPS with the ability to gather and maintain the necessary information related to the management of case activity throughout the CPS services continuum. FACIS provides the information required to be submitted for federal reporting under Title IVE, Title IVB, and Chafee.

#### **IV. STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN APSR**

The following describes the opportunities that were provided for stakeholder input into South Dakota's child welfare services and for ongoing collaboration since the last APSR. CPS staff are involved as members of the various groups mentioned below and are members of the CPS team that has direct input into the APSR. The details regarding the input and application to the APSR are addressed in each of the related sections of the APSR. Additional collaborative efforts and stakeholder involvement are described throughout the APSR.

1. Independent Living Services (ILS) Advisory Workgroup-The ILS Advisory Workgroup is composed of representatives from CPS, Department of Corrections, group and residential facilities, Community Resource Persons (CRP), tribal representative, and youth who are in foster care or have exited foster care. The ILS Workgroup meets at least twice per year and advises CPS on the biannual teen conference, the Regional ILS training workshops, program development, and service delivery to youth. Data on NYTD and Youth Exit Surveys are provided at the meetings. The ideas and input provided during the meetings are used to update the APSR. The input of the workgroup will continue to be used during FFY19 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
2. The ILS Young Voices youth groups are in four communities. Young Voices continues to provide youth another means to share their views and experiences in foster care and provide input into how the system can improve IL Services and transition support. The CRPs attend the meetings and provide updates to the CPS ILS Program Specialist on the Young Voices work and recommendations. Recommendations from Young Voices continue to be used in the development of the APSR. The input of the youth will continue to be used during FFY19 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
3. The ILS Program Specialist is a member of a group established by the state Department of Labor to help improve youth employment. Information obtained through the group will be used to during FFY19 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
4. The ILS Program Specialist is a member of a group established by the South Dakota Housing Authority to help address housing issues for families and youth who transition from foster care. Information obtained through the group will be used to during FFY19 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
5. Exit Interviews are completed by youth that age out of care. The exit interviews are used to assist in assessing services to youth and to help CPS in looking at and enhancing service delivery. The results of the exit interviews are presented to the CPS Management Team and provided to staff during ongoing and Certification training. The information gained from the surveys will continue to be used during FFY19 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
6. The information from the NYTD survey completed by youth is used to inform the APSR related to establishment of goals and measuring progress in the ILS section of the APSR. The information from the surveys will continue to be used during FFY19 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
7. When the Group/Residential Licensing Program Specialist completes annual reviews of each facility, youth residents are surveyed using Survey Monkey prior to the on-site

review. The survey includes a range of questions on topics such as: how the youth are treated; whether the youth feel safe; what contact do youth have with supervising staff and family; and how they feel about the services. The information is used to inform the Group and Residential Care Providers, inform CPS staff and administration, and to address program and planning of services through the CFSP.

8. The Parenting Education Partners is a statewide network of parenting educators that provide parenting classes. The Parenting Education Partners Advisory Board, which is composed of parents and other stakeholders, meets two times per year to assess the effectiveness of the Common Sense Parenting and Responsive Parenting classes and make recommendations regarding parenting program approaches, techniques, and accommodations for populations with special needs. The Parenting Education Partners work with tribal agencies to improve efforts toward serving tribal areas. Input from the Advisory Board is used to enhance parenting education training for parents. The input from the Advisory Board will continue to be used during FFY19 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the Parenting Education Program.
9. Parenting Education Partners hold peer reviews of local Parenting Education providers. The information from the reviews is used in the APSR to improve parenting education and other prevention services. The input gained from the Peer Reviews will continue to be used during FFY19 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the Parenting Education Program.
10. The Justice for Children's Committee (JCC) serves as both the Children's Justice Act task force and the Citizen Review Panel. The JCC is composed of a variety of stakeholders. The JCC report is included in the CAPTA Plan. The recommendations and action steps established by the JCC for the Children's Justice Act Grant are also included in the APSR. The JCC is consulted regarding CPS policy, practice and training related to responding child abuse and neglect, including sex trafficking of children. The work of the JCC will continue to be used during FFY19 to assist in reviewing CPS policy and practice and provide guidance to CPS on sex trafficking policy and practice.
11. The State/Tribal Child Welfare Consultation continues to meet to facilitate coordination and information sharing between CPS and the Tribes. The group includes representatives from tribal child welfare programs, ICWA programs, CPS, and Casey Family Programs. Items related to the CFSP and APSR continue to be discussed at each of the meetings. A copy of the 2018 APSR was provided to the tribal representatives by email or mail depending on individual preference in March of 2018. The email encouraged representatives to provide input or suggestions regarding the APSR anytime throughout the year. The State/Tribal Consultation group continues to work towards achieving the objectives developed in the 2016 strategic plan. The group has refocused the objectives into the Operation Plan.
12. The South Dakota ICWA Placement & Recruitment Project also known as South Dakota Native Foster Care (SDNFC) was created in 2014 with the task of increasing the amount of Native American foster homes in South Dakota. The group consists of members of 9 tribes in South Dakota and DSS staff from each region. The group meets on a regular basis to plan recruitment strategies. Recruitment is held throughout the year at pow-wows and community and sporting events. The next event will be held at the Children's Day Carnival in Wagner, SD on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The event was held in April last year and brought together nearly 400 community members. Events are posted on the group's Facebook page, which has over 800 followers. This group is supported by Casey Family Programs who provides funding for recruitment materials and events throughout the year.

13. The South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association meets quarterly. Representatives from the Department of Social Service (Child Protection Services, Auxiliary Placement and Behavioral Health) and the Department of Corrections attend the meetings to discuss areas related to children placed in group and residential care such as admissions, denials, discharges, seclusions and restraints, placement numbers, out of state placements and any efforts to improve the system for youth placed in upper levels of care. CPS began a collaborative effort with the Child Placement Agencies that provide Treatment Foster Care services to children through contracting. The purpose is to review the treatment foster care system and to collaborate with the Treatment Foster Care providers to determine how services can be redesigned to improve stability and permanency for children receiving Treatment Foster Care Services. During the last year, CPS has completed a survey of CPS staff about treatment foster care to better understand strengths and areas for development and has developed a survey for child placement agencies to obtain their feedback. After the results are analyzed, the work group will meet to continue its work to improve permanency outcomes for children in treatment foster care.
14. Three representatives from CPS continue to participate as members of the CIP Committee. The CIP Committee and CPS focus on areas that relate to the CFSR and the APSR.
15. CPS is involved in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), which is a program intended to provide alternatives to detention for youth in the juvenile corrections system. The Regional Managers from Regions 1 (Rapid City) and 6 (Sioux Falls) are members of the JDAI committees in their service area. JDAI expansion meetings were held in Aberdeen, Watertown, Mitchell, and Pierre with CPS supervisors from those offices participating in the meetings. Occasionally, children under CPS custody enter the juvenile corrections system, and it is important to provide less restrictive alternatives. This work is important for service planning within the child welfare system.
16. The Department's new Strategic Plan for 2017-2021 was shared with DSS staff through several informational meetings held across the state in the fall of 2017. The Plan includes broad Department goals, one of which relates to protecting individual from abuse, neglect and exploitation and the other relates to meaningful outcomes for customers we serve. CPS plans to release a survey for parents through Survey Monkey in the fall of 2018. The information from the Strategic Plan is used in the review of the APSR.
17. The CPS EPICS workgroups, composed of CPS Family Services Specialists, Supervisors, Regional Managers, and Program Specialists are actively involved on an ongoing basis in developing and recommending enhancements to CPS policy and practice. These workgroups will be involved in the development and implementation of the Program Improvement Plan during FFY19 following Round 3 of the CFSR.
18. Interviews are completed with community stakeholders, parents and children, and CPS staff when Safety Permanency and Wellbeing (SPWB) QA reviews are completed to obtain input on CPS service delivery. The results of the interviews are provided to the Regional Managers and Supervisors for each office reviewed to help in determining systemic strengths and needs and responding to the needs either locally or programmatically. The information gained from the interviews is used to assess outcomes and the Child Protection Services' service system.

19. A meeting is held with stakeholders following a Safety Permanency and Well-Being office review. The purpose of the meeting is to provide office review data to the stakeholders and obtain input about strengths and areas of need. Information from the meetings is used by CPS and will continue to be used to assist in the assessing the effectiveness of interventions used in the CFSP. This process was suspended during the 2016 CFSR but will be implemented again during FFY 19.
20. The Protective Services Program Specialist from Child Protection Services is a member of the Birth to Three Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), which has the purpose of advising and assisting the Department of Education on identifying appropriate services for children ages birth to three who have a disability or developmental delay. Information is exchanged between CPS and the ICC to further services for the children in the target population. The Council meets four times per year and the Program Specialist provides input regarding keeping the children safe and provides data on the number of Birth to Three children that have been victims of abuse and/or neglect.
21. CPS and the Department of Education continue their collaboration related to the implementation of Title I of the *Every Student Succeeds Act*. Procedures for staff in CPS and local school districts were developed, as well as an MOU between the Departments of Education and Social Services to enhance educational stability for children and a process to address issues as they arise.
22. The Department of Health developed a Child and Family Services Interagency Workgroup that meets quarterly. Areas of focus are family planning, newborn screenings for hearing and metabolic diseases, the WIC program that provides supplemental nutrition for women, infants, and children, For Baby's Sake that provides information and resources to help women have healthy pregnancies and healthy babies, and access to oral health. The CPS Protective Services Program Specialist is also a member of this workgroup and provides input regarding safety of children, as well as education regarding child welfare in South Dakota.
23. The CPS Protection Services Program Specialist is an appointed member of the SD CASA board. The board monitors the number of children served and the number of children waiting for a CASA volunteer. Funding determinations are considered through the board. The board provides opportunities for education and collaboration.

## V. PREVENTION EDUCATION AND PARENTING SUPPORT

DSS continues in its role as the lead agency for the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant. The mission of the South Dakota Department of Social Services is: *“To strengthen and support individuals and families by promoting cost effective and comprehensive services in connection with our partners that foster independent and healthy families”* and is executed and supported with CBCAP resources. CPS and Parenting Education Program have a commitment to enhance the parenting skills of parents, and reduce child abuse and neglect in South Dakota. CPS implements and monitors the specific activities and goals of the programs supported through CBCAP. CPS maintains a continuum of community-based child abuse prevention programs.

A network of parenting education providers will continue to be in place across the state for families that are interested in improving their parenting skills or that are referred because of concerns of being at risk of abusing or neglecting their children. Parenting instruction based on the Common Sense Parenting Model is designed to meet a range of individual needs and is provided statewide by a network of regional site coordinators. The Parenting Education Partners utilize the child abuse and neglect prevention information and the Common Sense Parenting Program to provide awareness about child abuse and neglect in the state.

Parents have a strong voice in the South Dakota Parenting Education Program. Parents are program advocates, referrals sources for other parents in need of assistance, and share testimonials about how the program has made a difference in their life. The Parenting Education Program website will continue to be used to advertise and to promote the local Common Sense Parenting classes throughout South Dakota. The schedule of classes is maintained on the CPS website: <http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/parentingprogram.aspx>.

The Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) assists with the administration of the Parenting Education Partners through an annual contract. The BHSSC is a parenting partner with the Common Sense Parenting Program. The BHSSC works with the Program Specialist and the Common Sense Parenting Program to provide the parenting leadership component to the existing Common Sense Parenting Program and assists in the development of questions related to the parent leadership components to be incorporated to the Parent Outcome Survey. The BHSSC provide training on the Parenting Leadership curriculum to other Common Sense Parenting Programs statewide.

The CBCAP Parenting Education Advisory Board for the Parenting Education Program is at the center of the statewide network. This network provides an ongoing opportunity for agencies and providers to collaborate to support community-based efforts to design, provide activities, and develop initiatives aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The Parenting Education Advisory Board meets a minimum of twice per year. The Parenting Education Advisory Board serves as the driving force to ensure an ongoing focus on the social and emotional well-being of children through building of state and local resources. The CPS Program Specialist, assigned to the Parenting Education Program, leads and directs the Advisory Board. The Program Specialist and BHSSC staff provide leadership to the Parenting Education Advisory Board.

CPS is the lead agency responsible for promoting statewide child abuse and neglect prevention activities during Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Program Specialist promotes the use of prevention resources within all CPS offices, schools, Head Start Centers, local Child Protection Teams, private and public organizations, and the Parenting Education Partners network. The public has access to the state parenting and child abuse prevention website at <http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/nationalchildabuse.aspx>.

The Parenting Education Peer Reviews provide an avenue for parents, staff of tribal and local service providers, CPS, Head Start, domestic violence providers, and Parenting Education Partners to discuss the strengths and concerns associated with the Common Sense Parenting

Program. Parents will continue to be a major part of the review and a guiding force for planning the future. The Peer Review is a valuable way to evaluate the program and give feedback to the Parenting Education Program. The Peer Review helps to assure information about the availability of parenting education is effectively provided to the public. Setting down around the table is a valuable experience for all who attend the Peer Reviews.

The Parenting Education Program will continue to collaborate with FRIENDS National Resource Center to enhance the outcome evaluation process with the Common Sense Partners. South Dakota will work together with FRIENDS to continue to measure continuous outcomes to ensure requirements are met.

### **2019 Progress Update**

DSS is committed to protecting children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. DSS issued a press release to announce the designation of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. DSS encourages people in communities across the state to work together to keep children safe and offer the support families need to stay together. DSS is committed to protecting children from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Included in the press release were the following child abuse prevention tips:

- Learn about the signs of child abuse and neglect. Learn more about the common signs of abuse and neglect at <http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/>.
- Ask for help if you need it. There are many resources available to provide support. The Common Sense Parenting classes are held throughout the state and cover topics ranging from reducing family stress to enriching relationship with young children. For more information on this program, visit: <http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/parentingprogram.aspx>.
- Offer a helping hand to friends and neighbors. Let parents know who is available and willing to talk, or offer to give parents a rest by taking care of their children. Volunteer your time to local community programs that provide support for families, such as after-school programs, athletic or church activities.
- Report suspected child abuse and neglect. If you have reason to believe a child has been harmed or may be in danger, report it by contacting your local Department of Social Services office or local law enforcement agency.
- Wearing a blue ribbon. Throughout the month of April, citizens are asked to wear blue ribbons or tie them to their vehicle antennas to spread the message of child abuse prevention.

In addition, child abuse prevention material was provided to the Common Sense Parenting class participants statewide. Parenting Education Partners provided information from the *2017 Prevention Resource Guides* to parents and service providers in their areas of service. CPS provided the *2017 Prevention Resource Guides* to the South Dakota Association for the Education of Youth Children and South Dakota Head Start Association (SDAEYC/SDHSA) joint conference in April.

During FFY17, 674 adults from families involving 1,667 children attended the Common Sense Parenting Program. An additional parenting education option is provided through Great Plains Psychological Service's traditional Positive Indian Parenting classes in the Sioux Falls area.

The Parenting Outcome Survey provides parents the opportunities to give input regarding their level of satisfaction to the effectiveness of the Common Sense Parenting Program, and the

training skills of the presenter. The Parenting Education Partners are expected to ask parents to complete the outcome survey at the end of the six-week class.

The following tables include data related to several of the questions from the FFY17 Common Sense Parenting Program evaluation.

<b>The Common Sense Parenting Program has helped me improve my parent skills.</b>		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
459	6.36	0.91

<b>My ideas and opinions are welcomed and included in the Common Sense Parenting Program.</b>		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
459	6.50	0.86

<b>The Common Sense Parenting Program has helped me reach my goals for my family and me.</b>		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
457	6.24	1.02

<b>The Common Sense Parenting has given me skills to teach my children better self-control.</b>		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
459	6.51	0.83

<b>The Common Sense Parenting has given me skills to have better self- control.</b>		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
456	6.42	0.91

<b>My children's behaviors have improved since I began using Common Sense Parenting Program skills.</b>		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
442	5.74	1.23

<b>My relationship with my children has improved since I began using Common Sense Parenting skills.</b>		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
444	5.99	1.17

<b>I understand how I can be a leader in my home.</b>		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
457	6.56	0.80

<b>I have confidence in my ability to parents and take care of my children.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
454	5.10	1.34	453	6.57	0.66	448	71.88%

<b>I use effective praise and prevention and corrective teaching in interactions with my children.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
449	4.56	1.52	448	6.46	0.72	440	79.09%

<b>I help my children learn social skills that include following instructions and accepting “no” for an answer.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
455	4.73	1.37	450	6.30	0.84	448	76.12%

<b>I am able to manage the stress in my life.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
456	4.72	1.40	452	6.13	0.94	450	69.78%

<b>When I am worried about my child I have someone to talk to.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
456	4.96	1.65	451	6.17	1.16	449	55.90%

<b>I stand up for what my family and children need.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
455	5.59	1.37	450	6.62	0.69	449	51.89%

<b>I am able to meet my family’s needs with the resources available to me.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
453	5.73	1.47	450	6.37	1.14	447	36.24%

<b>When I have a problem I can’t solve on my own, I reach out for help.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
454	4.97	1.66	451	6.22	1.06	449	55.68%

<b>I set and enforce boundaries (limits and expectations) without losing control.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	

Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
455	4.87	1.47	450	6.34	0.84	449	68.82%

<b>I am a leader in my home.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
455	5.60	1.48	450	6.52	0.82	448	43.53%

<b>My children and I enjoy the time we spend together.</b>							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Co unt	Mean	St Dev	Coun t	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
456	6.10	1.25	450	6.74	0.70	449	33.85%

The Parenting Education Program is a statewide system to support families and prevent child abuse and neglect. The most effective way to meet the challenge of preventing child abuse and neglect is for the programs to collaborate together.

## **VI. SAFETY**

**Goal: Safety is managed for children in their homes.**

**Objective 1:** Increase Supervisors skills and knowledge related to supervision of safety management.

**Intervention 1:** Provide development training to supervisors to increase their knowledge regarding monitoring of provisional safety management.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 2:** Development training completed.

**2017 Update:** This Benchmark has been met.

**Intervention 2:** Provide onsite coaching to supervisors related to supervision of safety management.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 4:** Onsite coaching provided.

**2017 Update:** The coaching will be provided by phone to make it more feasible to provide the coaching to all staff in a timely manner.

**2018 Update:** Coaching is occurring through office consultations both onsite and via Skype.

**Objective 2:** Improve practice related to safety decision-making to support safe and timely permanency decisions.

**Intervention 1:** Implement a distinct decision-making process within the CSI that contributes to sufficient in-home safety plans.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 1:** Enhanced safety-decision making guidelines and tool are finalized and implemented.

**2017 Update:** This Benchmark has been met.

**Intervention 2:** Implement formalized standards and guidelines that clearly define Conditions for Return.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 2:** Piloting of Conditions for Return completed in 3 sites.

**End of Year 3:** Conditions for Return policy and procedures finalized and service is implemented statewide.

**Intervention 3:** Educate stakeholders on safety management and planning.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 2:** Determination made as to which stakeholders to educate and plan for education of stakeholders developed.

**Benchmark: End of Year 3:** Plan is implemented.

## **2019 Progress Update**

CPS completed Round 3 of the CFSR in 2016. CPS was aware as a result the SPWB QA reviews completed prior to the 2016 CFSR that Safety Items 2 and 3 were areas needing improvement. CPS developed the goals and interventions incorporated in the CFSP in an effort to impact many of the same issues which were found in the 2016 CFSR. CPS will need to develop the PIP with inclusion of both Safety Outcomes 1 and 2 due to the 2016 CFSR findings. CPS will be expanding on the current interventions in the APSR to address the themes found in the CFSR related to all three safety items.

CPS will report in this APSR on the status of the goals and interventions established in the development of the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). The PIP goals and strategies for these Items will be incorporated into the CFSP which will be due following the approval by the Children's Bureau.

## **SAFETY DATA**

### **Round 3 CFSR Findings:**

The following table provides the PIP Baseline and PIP Measurement Goals established following the CFSR Final Report and required for PIP measurement.

Item Requiring Measurement	PIP Baseline	PIP Goal
Item 1	87.8%	94.3%
Item 2	82.8%	91.7%
Item 3	40.3%	47.7%

### **State Performance on Statewide Safety Indicators May 2017:**

Based on the May 2017, 12-15-16 AFCARS and 12-01-16 NCANDS submissions South Dakota exceeded both the National Standard for Maltreatment in Foster Care and the National Standard for Recurrence of Maltreatment.

### **Maltreatment in Foster Care:**

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota's RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
1..3%	2.39%	4.38%	9.68%	Met

Recurrence of Maltreatment:

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota's RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
5.3%	6.9%	9.0%	9.5%	Met

**Goal:** Safety is managed for children in their homes.

**Objective 1:** Increase Supervisors skills and knowledge related to supervision of safety management.

**Intervention 1:** Provide development training to supervisors to increase their knowledge regarding monitoring of provisional safety management.

All Supervisors completed Round Two of Supervisor Development Training related to the clinical and consultation skills in implementation of the Comprehensive Safety Intervention model, which was held in August 2015, November 2015 and January 2016. CPS met this benchmark.

**Intervention 2:** Provide onsite coaching to supervisors related to supervision of safety management.

After consideration of onsite coaching as an approach to overseeing implementation, CPS decided on a different plan that would be more functional for providing coaching than onsite coaching. The CPS Ongoing Program Specialist will review each Family Services Specialist's first IFA after implementation of Conditions for Return and provide feedback to the Family Services Specialist and Supervisor as to how well the Family Services Specialist is applying the practice. The Ongoing Program Specialist will review each Family Services Specialist's first PCA following implementation and provide feedback to the Family Services Specialist and Supervisor as to how well the Family Services Specialist is applying the practice. If any Family Services Specialist and/or the Supervisor is struggling with the practice in the IFA or PCA, the Ongoing Services Program Specialist will review additional cases to assess progress by the Family Services Specialist and provide additional coaching if needed.

The coaching delivery has further evolved. Coaching occurs at a regional basis through utilization of "live" cases that are followed through the stages of the cases. The consultation occurs either onsite or via Skype.

**Objective 2:** Improve practice related to safety decision-making to support safe and timely permanency decisions.

**Intervention 2:** Implement formalized standards and guidelines that clearly define Conditions for Return.

Training on Conditions for Return was provided to the Supervisors, Regional Managers and State office staff On March 15, 2017. Training was then provided to Family Services

Specialists in Region 1, Region 2, Region 3 and Region 6 by Supervisors who are members of the CSI workgroup. Training was provided to Family Services Specialists in Regions 4, 5 and 7 by the Ongoing Services Program Specialist and Region 5 Regional Manager who are also members of the CSI workgroup. CPS will implement Conditions for Return statewide on July 1, 2017.

**Intervention 3:** Educate stakeholders on safety management and planning.

Each office will be providing education to key stakeholders regarding Conditions for Return during implementation. This will include a brief overview of the Comprehensive Safety Intervention process. Those stakeholders will include: Judges, States Attorneys, and Attorneys. The offices will use Child Protection Teams, MDT's and other meetings as opportunities to educate stakeholders.

**Measure:** The original measurement goal of 86% for Item 3 will be adjusted In accordance with the PIP. Measures will also be required for Item 1 and Item 2.

### High Risk Population

Children four and under are a population at high risk of maltreatment in families where substance use is a problem. CPS identified this population through abuse and neglect dispositions entered on the SACWIS system. The Initial Family Assessment is the process used by CPS to assess child maltreatment and child safety. The age of 6 or younger is automatically considered a danger threat criterion for purposes of intervention due to vulnerability. CPS refers children 3 or younger with a substantiated finding of abuse or neglect to Birth to Three. The Protective Capacity Assessment (PCA) is the intervention model used by CPS in open cases. The PCA is used to strengthen the parents protective capacities related to the assessed danger threats. The danger threats and need to strengthen parental behaviors are correlated, which means there is an automatic focus on age appropriate interventions related to danger threats to younger children in cases involving children 6 or younger or for children with disabilities.

### Child Maltreatment Death Reporting Sources

South Dakota Codified Law 26-8A-3 mandates which entities are required to report child abuse and neglect.

"26-8A-3. Persons required to report child abuse or neglected child--Intentional failure as misdemeanor. Any physician, dentist, doctor of osteopathy, chiropractor, optometrist, emergency medical technician, paramedic, mental health professional or counselor, podiatrist, psychologist, religious healing practitioner, social worker, hospital intern or resident, parole or court services officer, law enforcement officer, teacher, school counselor, school official, nurse, licensed or registered child welfare provider, employee or volunteer of a domestic abuse shelter, employee or volunteer of a child advocacy organization or child welfare service provider, chemical dependency counselor, coroner, or any safety-sensitive position as defined in § 3-6C-1, who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child under the age of eighteen has been abused or neglected as defined in § 26-8A-2 shall report that information in accordance with §§ 26-8A-6, 26-8A-7, and 26-8A-8. Any person who intentionally fails to make the required report is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any person who knows or has reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected as defined in § 26-8A-2 may report that information as provided in § 26-8A-8."

South Dakota Codified Law 26-8A-4 mandates that anyone who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of child abuse or neglect must report. The reporting process required by SDCL 26-8A-4 stipulates that the report must be made to the medical examiner or coroner and in turn the medical examiner or coroner must report to the South Dakota Department of Social Services.

“26-8A-4. Additional persons to report death resulting from abuse or neglect--Intentional failure as misdemeanor. In addition to the report required under § 26-8A-3, any person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of child abuse or neglect as defined in § 26-8A-2 shall report that information to the medical examiner or coroner. Upon receipt of the report, the medical examiner or coroner shall cause an investigation to be made and submit written findings to the state's attorney and the Department of Social Services. Any person required to report under this section who knowingly and intentionally fails to make a report is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.”

When CPS receives reports of child maltreatment deaths as required under SDCL 26-8A-4 or from any source, CPS documents the report in FACIS (SACWIS). In addition, the Protective Services Program Specialist, Assistant Division Director, and Division Director are immediately notified of the death. The Protective Services Program Specialist works closely with the Family Services Specialist and Supervisor assigned to the case to gather details regarding the death, as well as circumstances leading up to and surrounding the incident. Deaths which meet the NCANDS data definition are reported to NCANDS. The State has and will continue to provide information to the Justice for Children's Committee (JCC), which is a joint committee of the Citizen Review Panel and Children's Justice Task Force, regarding child deaths.

## **CAPTA**

The State Liaison for CAPTA is:

JoLynn Bostrom, Program Specialist  
Department of Social Services  
Division of Child Protection Services  
2200 W. Main Street  
Sturgis, SD 57785

Email: [JoLynn.Bostrom@state.sd.us](mailto:JoLynn.Bostrom@state.sd.us)

## **2019 Progress Update**

There were no changes in South Dakota's laws or regulations which affect the State's eligibility for the CAPTA State grant. South Dakota has provisions in place for the public disclosure of child abuse and neglect fatalities or near fatalities as required by 106(b)(2)(B)(x) of CAPTA.

CPS continues to use CAPTA funds to support the objectives described in the FFY 2012 CAPTA State Plan, including maintenance of and enhancements to the CPS system and processes for receipt of reports of child abuse and neglect, response to reports of child abuse and neglect, and intervention when there are threats to child safety.

CAPTA funds were used to purchase services from interpreters to assist in Initial Family Assessments (IFA) and Protective Capacity Assessments (PCA) when working with non-English speaking families or for parents with other needs.

CAPTA funds were used to pay for substance and alcohol assessments and for monitoring of parents' substance and alcohol use to assess parental capacity and assure safe reunification. CAPTA funds were used to pay for drug testing during IFAs and Ongoing services. CAPTA funds were used to purchase equipment for office interview and visitation rooms.

CPS continues to train new staff through the Certification Training program, which provides comprehensive knowledge and skill training to CPS staff. CPS provides ongoing and advanced training on safety, permanency, and wellbeing to all staff. (See the APSR section on Training) CAPTA funds were used to purchase training resources to help support some of these training activities.

CAPTA funds were used to contract with an attorney to assist in child abuse and neglect court cases in a tribal court to expedite the permanency process, whether it is reunification or some other permanent plan.

CAPTA funds were used for printing CPS brochures for educating and informing the public about Child Protection Services and child abuse and neglect.

CAPTA funds were used for case management services including: mental health assessments, counseling, anger manager assessment, and domestic violence counseling.

## **Intake Restructure**

CPS restructured the intake system and has entered the fourth year of implementation. CJA funds were used to restructure the system and have been used since the restructure to support the sustainability of intake system. This includes supporting ongoing costs of maintaining the system, additional equipment as needed, training of staff, and improvements.

The Protective Services Program Specialist continues to monitor the intake process through reports within the centralized telephone system. The reports assist with ensuring equal distribution of workload, as well as the number of incoming calls, the length of calls, the number of abandoned calls, call volumes, and the timeliness of answering calls.

In reviewing calendar year 2017, the distribution of the calls remains steady in comparison to the prior year. Within the intake unit, there is some variance regarding skill level amongst the staff; however, the average number of calls each month per staff is 104. The centralized telephone system received a total of 17,853 calls. Of these calls, 973 (5.4%) were abandoned, meaning the caller hung up prior to the call being answered. The average speed for a call to be answered is 1 minute, 3 seconds, and the average delay before a call is abandoned is 2 minutes, 42 seconds.

Each year a mandatory Intake Specialist meeting is held to update the Intake Specialists and the Intake Specialist Screeners on policies and procedures and to discuss practice. Prior to the Intake meeting, questionnaires are sent out to the Family Services Specialists and Supervisors on topics they would like to discuss and review. This gives the Intake Family Services Specialists, Screeners, and Supervisors input on the agenda items at the annual training. The 2018 meeting is scheduled for June 26-27, 2018. The agenda includes training on sufficient information gathering, identifying danger threats, peer reviews, and team building activities.

### Drug Affected Infants

South Dakota has provisions in state law which includes prenatal exposure to abusive use of drugs and alcohol as part of the definition of child abuse and neglect. In addition, South Dakota Codified Law 26-8A-3 addresses requirements of health care providers, and other professionals, to report child abuse or neglect. This law lists out several professional mandated to report child abuse and/or neglect and a failure to do so, could result in a misdemeanor charge. South Dakota Codified Law 26-8A-6 is further specific to hospital personnel in that "any person who has contact with a child through the performance of services as a member of staff of a hospital or similar institutions shall immediately notify the person in charge of the institution or his designee of suspected abuse or neglect..." .

The South Dakota Health Department has guidelines defined in South Dakota Administrative Rule 44:65:02:01 and 44:65:02:02 that require reports by physicians or hospitals to the Health Department situations where a diagnosing physician attends to a person suspected of having FAS or a hospital is aware of a person who is suspected of having FAS was served by the hospital. The rules also state that reporting under these provisions does not relieve the physician or hospital from the obligation to report FAS as child abuse or neglect.

In 2018, Senate Bill 105 was introduced and passed by the legislature which authorizes health care practitioners to administer a toxicology test to an infant during the first 28 days of life under certain circumstances with or without parental consent. If a health care practitioner has reason to believe, based on a medical assessment of a mother or a newborn infant, that the mother used a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose during the pregnancy, the practitioner may administer, with or without consent of the newborn infant's parent or guardian, a toxicology test. The test is to determine whether there is evidence of prenatal exposure of a controlled substance. If the test results are positive, the practitioner shall report the results according to South Dakota's mandatory reporting law, which is SDCL 26-8A-8.

Child Protection Services' safety focused model includes services for those infants affected by abuse of drugs or alcohol. When a child who is born drug affected or suspected of suffering from FASD is ready for discharge from a hospital and cannot be placed safely in their home through a safety plan, Child Protection Services seeks the assistance of relatives and/or foster homes which are capable of addressing the child's needs and providing a safe environment for the child, which includes a safe care plan. The caregiver and the Child Protection Service Family Specialist work

closely with the physician to ensure the continuity of care. If a child is ready for discharge and is able to safely remain in their home and the danger threats are able to be managed, Child Protection Services opens the case for in-home services, providing additional support to the family with a safe care plan. The Child Protection Family Services Specialist continues to monitor the child's safety while arranging for additional services, based on the parent's needs and assuring the child's needs are being met in the home.

The increase in the State's CAPTA funds will assist in continued efforts to support and address the needs of infants born and identified as being affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure. Funding will be utilized to assist parents with drug assessments and subsequent treatment if recommended, and/or ongoing monitoring in the form of substance use testing. Safe care plans developed for the infants to avoid the child being placed in custody may include additional case management services and costs for the alternative providers. These services may include but are not limited to temporary daycare for the child or training related to providing care for the infant's medical needs.

CPS will collaborate with the Division of Behavioral Health and the Department of Health to explore further opportunities to enhance safe care plans, including linking infants affected by substance abuse to the Bright Start Home Visiting program. Parents are eligible to begin visits during pregnancy up to the child's second birthday through Bright Start. The program is currently available in eleven counties in SD.

On October 31, 2017, South Dakota implemented new fields in the FACIS (SACWIS) system to track alcohol affected infants, drug affected infants, safe care plans, and referral to CARA related services.

#### CAPTA Amendments-Sex Trafficking

Intake Specialists have been provided with information regarding responding to report of sex trafficking and potential victims of sex-trafficking. The Intake Specialist must identify and document in the FACIS system children who Child Protection Services has a reasonable cause to believe are sex trafficking victims or are at risk of being sex-trafficking victims. On October 31, 2017, South Dakota added a new maltreatment type to the FACIS (SACWIS) system to track the number of children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking.

There are instances in which a referral is received by the Department; however, the allegations do not involve a parent, guardian, or custodian. In these situations, in accordance with SDCL (South Dakota Codified Law) 26-8A-2, the referral is forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency to investigate. Along with the Department, law enforcement is the other agency mandated by state law to investigate reports of child abuse and neglect. The investigation can be completed by either agency or jointly. The Department does not have the legal authority to investigate any cases of child maltreatment or sex offenses which do not meet the definitions within SDCL 26-8A-2. In these situations, safety of the child is paramount and it is important to assure the parent, guardian, or custodian responsible for the child is able and willing to protect the child. If the report indicates the parent, guardian or custodian, or other person responsible is not protecting the child or the child is otherwise unsafe through fault or no fault of the parent, the report is further assessed for assignment and for additional services by Child Protection Services. Child Protection Services also coordinates with other agencies and service providers needed to assure the child's safety and to implement services which provide for the physical and emotional needs of the child. The Department does consider requests by law enforcement and child

protection agencies from other states for a Family Services Specialist to conduct a courtesy interview and assist with ensuring the safety of the child.

## **CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL REPORT- FISCAL YEAR 2018**

The Justice for Children's Committee (JCC), which is a joint committee of the Citizen Review Panel and Children's Justice Task Force, held meetings and conference calls over the last year to work on the three year recommendations. The meetings and conference calls included other topics; however, the main focus of the meetings was the three year assessment recommendations. Various members of the JCC provided presentations to the JCC about current projects and issues relevant to the assessment. Those presentations included the work of the Court Improvement Program Committee, law enforcement's experience with the rise in methamphetamine cases, recent legislation related to family violence, and discussion about a task force created to study policy, and practice and laws related to child sexual abuse in South Dakota.

What follows are the recommendations and action steps agreed upon by the JCC. Action steps for some of the recommendations are still being developed. The JCC will continue to further develop action steps as needed over the next three years related to the recommendations.

### **2018 Three Year Recommendations**

#### **Recommendation #I: Mandatory Conference Attendance**

JCC members support attendance at the annual Children's Justice Act conference.

##### **Action Steps:**

- A. JCC Member attends the annual CJA grantee meeting in Washington DC.
- B. Attendance contingent on approved funding.

#### **Recommendation II: Safety Response to Domestic Violence**

Review the current processes and practice used to assess child abuse and neglect and child safety in domestic violence cases and develop recommendations regarding any areas where enhancements can be made.

##### **Action Steps:**

- A. JCC obtain information and input from South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault regarding statistics and best practice.
- B. Research and increase system understanding of trauma as it relates to children's exposure to domestic violence.
- C. Research availability of resources for families and children affected by domestic violence and increase awareness of responders regarding those resources.

#### **Recommendation III: Develop a workgroup regarding sex trafficking.**

Review recent legislation and make recommendations for policy and procedures to the Department of Social Services related to sex trafficking.

##### **Action Steps:**

- A. Outline key components regarding response to reports of trafficking.

- B. Provide guidelines and recommendations regarding indicators, policy, and procedures.

Recommendation IV: Enough Abuse Campaign.

JCC will support and assist in launching “Enough Abuse” campaign regarding child sexual abuse.

Action Steps:

- A. Collaborate with the South Dakota Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment regarding the train the trainers program.
- B. Train 40 individuals across the state from varying professions.
- C. Support additional training for staff and stakeholders statewide.

Recommendation V: Defer to Jolene’s Task Force Study.

JCC will defer to Jolene’s Law Task Force regarding any further review of issues related to child sexual abuse.

Action Steps:

- A. JCC will stay informed about the work and developments of Jolene’s Law Task Force.
- B. JCC will consider the recommendations of Jolene’s Law Task Force in relation to any further work needed by the JCC.

Recommendation #VI: Sexual Abuse Video

Research and begin development of an online training video regarding the assessment and investigation of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Action Steps:

- A. Explore the options of development and cost of the video.
- B. Explore other state’s use of training regarding responding to sexual abuse.
- C. Explore curriculum to be used for the video in conjunction with Enough Abuse campaign.

Recommendation VII: Improve Public Relations and Education

Enhance public education relating to the Child Protection Services processes and other related areas affecting children’s safety to increase the public’s knowledge of the services Child Protection Services provides.

Action Steps:

- A. Explore ways to more effectively make information available to the public regarding issues impacting children and families. Some examples include use of tools similar to social media and development of brochures.

## **VII. PERMANENCY AND CHILD AND FAMILY WELL BEING**

**Goal 1:** Children reunified with their families are able to remain at home and do not re-enter foster care.

**Objective 1:** Improve re-entry rates in selected offices with higher foster care caseloads.

**Intervention:** Use the CQI process to address re-entry in selected offices.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 1:** Determinations will be made regarding offices to include in analysis.

**End of Year 2:**

- a. Analysis of selected offices will be completed.
- b. Action plans will be implemented as necessary based on analysis.

**End of Year 3:** Assessment of progress will be completed.

**2017 Update:** CPS achieved the measure of No Difference in relation to the National Standard. As a result CPS will not continue to implement the intervention under Objective 1.

**Objective 2:** Parents will have the enhanced protective capacities to manage safety for their children.

**Intervention 1:** Implement a distinct decision-making process within the CSI that contributes to sufficient in-home safety plans.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 1:** Enhanced safety-decision making guidelines and tool are finalized and implemented.

**2017 Update:** This intervention is operational.

**Intervention 2:** Implement formalized standards and guidelines that clearly define Conditions for Return.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 1:** Piloting of Conditions for Return completed in 3 sites.

**End of Year 3:** Conditions for Return policy and procedures finalized and service is implemented statewide.

**2018 Update:** This Intervention will be operational beginning July 1, 2017.

**Intervention 3:** Educate stakeholders on safety management and planning,

**Benchmarks: End of Year 1:** Determination made as to which stakeholders to educate and plan for education of stakeholders developed.

**End of Year 3:** Plan is implemented.

**2018 Update:** This intervention will be complete by September 30, 2017.

**Measure:** The progress measure will be changed in accordance with the PIP as a result of the CFSR Round 3.

**Goal 2:** Families will have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

**Objective:** CPS staff skills will be enhanced in assessing parent's needs and determining services for parents.

**Intervention 1:** Provide advanced training to staff regarding the PCA process and needs assessment of parents.

**Benchmark: End of Year 1:** Training is completed.

**2017 Update:** This Benchmark has been met.

**Intervention 2:** Provide training to Supervisors to increase their consultation skills regarding the PCA process and needs assessment of parents.

**Benchmark: End of Year 2:** Training is completed.

**2017 Update:** This Benchmark has been met.

**Intervention 3:** Review implementation of PCA practice related to assessing parents needs and the results of service provision through SPWB Reviews.

**Benchmark: End of Year 3:** Review of practice completed and recommendations made regarding enhancements.

**Measure:** The progress measure will be changed to the measure for Item 3 established during the CFSR Round 3.

**Goal 3:** Permanency will be achieved for children in a timely manner.

**Objective 1:** Permanency practice results in timely permanent placements

**Intervention 1:** Complete analysis of current practice related to achieving timely permanency and implement necessary improvements.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 3:**

- a. Analysis of current practice is completed.
- b. Recommendations for enhancements are presented to the Management Team.

**End of Year 4:** Recommendations approved by the Management Team are implemented.

**2018 Update:** CPS has completed some initial analysis. That information will be used to assist in the implementation of the PIP.

**2019 Update:** South Dakota is engaging with the Capacity Building Center for States and Courts to develop an instrument to complete case reviews with the intent of pinpointing issues related to timely achievement of permanency. As part of the PIP, South Dakota will gather data, based on specific case dynamics, child age, ethnicity, region, time in care,

state or tribal court, and other factors. Individual case reviews will be completed on case files, as well as court and administrative review observations. The project is being designed so that results will be specific to each regional office in the state, and individual and specific strategies can be created to address the identified concerns. In addition to this work South Dakota implemented the most recent enhancement to the CSI model, safety plan determination and conditions for return in order to return children home sooner, safely, with an emphasis on keeping them in the family home, and ultimately preventing re-entry into foster care through the development of an in-home safety plan.

**Intervention 2:** Continue implementation of current statewide recruitment, development and retention plans to increase placement resources specific to cultural, behavioral and emotional needs of children.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 1:** Gather and assess data related to impact of recruitment plans.

**2017 Update:** This Benchmark has been met.

**Intervention 3:** Implement enhanced targeted recruitment in tribal areas.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 1:** Targeted recruitment plan is implemented.

**2017 Update:** This Benchmark has been met.

**Intervention 4:** Implement a team review process to enhance efforts toward achieving permanent plans.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 2:**

- a) Gather information with the assistance of Casey Family Programs on current processes/models that use a team review process for addressing timeliness for children in care over 24 months.
- b) Select process/model.

**End of Year 3:** Develop implementation plan.

**Measure 1:** The progress measure will be changed to the measure for Item 6 established for the PIP during the CFSR Round 3.

**Measure 2:** CPS will improve the rating for permanency in 12 months for children in foster Care 24 months or more based on the CFSR 3 Standard from Not Met to No Difference by 2018.

### **2019 Progress Update**

CPS developed the goals and interventions incorporated in the CFSP based on QA case reviews completed prior to the 2016 CFSR. CPS will need to develop the PIP with inclusion of Permanency Outcome 1, Permanency Outcome 2, Well Being Outcome 1, Well Being Outcome 2 and Well Being Outcome 3 due to the 2016 CFSR findings. CPS will integrate the PIP and CFSP once the PIP is approved. CPS is already in the process of implementing enhancements to practice that are expected to improve the permanency outcomes. Many of those enhancements will be discussed in this APSR.

CPS will report in this APSR on the status of the Permanency and Well Being goals and interventions established in the development of the 2015-2019 CFSP. The PIP goals and strategies for the Permanency and Well Being Outcomes will be incorporated into the first APSR that is due following the approval of the PIP by the Children's Bureau. In addition, CPS will include progress updates related to those Outcomes once the PIP is implemented.

## **PERMANENCY DATA**

### PIP Related Items

The following table includes the baseline and measurement goal for those permanency items required to be addressed in the PIP.

Item Requiring Measurement	PIP Baseline	PIP Goal
Item 4	70.2%	78.8%
Item 5	60.0%	69.3%
Item 6	29.8%	38.3%

The following table includes the baseline and measurement goal for those Well Being items required to be addressed in the PIP.

Item Requiring Measurement	PIP Baseline	PIP Goal
Item 12	36.1%	43.4%
Item 13	51.4%	59.1%
Item 14	84.7%	90.1%
Item 15	34.4%	42.0%

### **State Performance on Statewide Permanency Indicators May 2017:**

#### **Permanency in 12 Months:**

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota's RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
43.0%	46.3%	49.6%	42.1%	Exceeded

#### **Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 12-23 Months:**

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota's RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
28.2%	33.2%	38.7%	45.9%	Not Met

#### **Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 24 Months or More:**

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota's RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Met/Not Met/No Difference
26.3%	30.1%	34.2%	31.8%	No Difference

#### Re-entry to Foster Care

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota's RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
9.9%	13.1%	17.0%	8.4%	Not Met

#### Placement Stability:

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota's RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
5.04%	5.40%	5.8%	4.44%	Not Met

**Goal 1:** Children reunified with their families are able to remain at home and do not re-enter foster care.

**Objective 1:** Improve re-entry rates in selected offices with higher foster care caseloads.

**Intervention:** Use the CQI process to address reentry in selected offices.

Since CPS met the measure and is not required to include the standard in the PIP, CPS will not proceed with the Intervention in Objective 1.

**Objective 2:** Parents will have the enhanced protective capacities to manage safety for their children.

**Intervention 2:** Implement formalized standards and guidelines that clearly define Conditions for Return.

Training on Conditions for Return was provided to the Supervisors, Regional Managers and State office staff On March 15, 2017. Training was then provided to Family Services Specialists in Region 1, Region 2, Region 3 and Region 6 by Supervisors who are members of the CSI workgroup. Training was provided to Family Services Specialists in Regions 4, 5 and 7 by the Ongoing Services Program Specialist and Region 5 Regional

Manager who are also members of the CSI workgroup. CPS will implement Conditions for Return statewide on July 1, 2017.

**Intervention 3:** Educate stakeholders on safety management and planning,

Each office will be providing education to key stakeholders regarding Conditions for Return during implementation. This will include a brief overview of the Comprehensive Safety Intervention process. Those stakeholders will include: Judges, States Attorneys, and Attorneys. The offices will use Child Protection Teams, MDT's and other meetings as opportunities to educate stakeholders.

**Goal 3:** Permanency will be achieved for children in a timely manner.

**Objective 1:** Permanency practice results in timely permanent placements

**Intervention 1:** Complete analysis of current practice related to achieving timely permanency and implement necessary improvements.

As a result of the findings in Round 3 of the CFSR, CPS is revising the strategies/interventions with this objective. Due to the fact that the themes found in the case reviews depending on the jurisdiction show a variety of factors affecting Permanency Outcome 1. CPS will incorporate the revised strategies within the CFSP and subsequent APSR once the PIP is approved.

**Intervention 2:** Continue implementation of current statewide recruitment, development and retention plans to increase placement resources specific to cultural, behavioral and emotional needs of children.

Information and related updates can be found in the South Dakota Division of Child Protection Services 2015-2019 Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment section of the APSR.

CPS continues to work with the Treatment Foster Care providers to review the current Treatment Foster Care service system. A compression planning session, which will be facilitated by Casey Family Programs, has been scheduled to assist CPS in establishing the overarching goal and outcomes CPS would like to result from the collaboration.

**Intervention 3:** Implement enhanced targeted recruitment in tribal areas.

Information and related updates can be found in the South Dakota Division of Child Protection Services 2015-2019 Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment section of the APSR.

**Intervention 4:** Implement a team review process to enhance efforts toward achieving permanent plans.

South Dakota implemented Permanency Round Tables (PRT) to assist with timely permanency for children. In July of 2016, a CORE Team comprised of two State Office Program Specialists, along with at least one field staff member from each region, was developed to attend PRT training. The training consists of Values Training which

everyone is required to attend and then the Skills Training which only those involved in a Permanency Round Table are required to attend.

The Permanency Round Table Meetings consist of the initial meeting, a 30 day follow up meeting, a 90 day follow up, another 90 day follow up, and then a meeting every six months until permanency is achieved. The process may not always get the “Gold” standard of adoption for the children, but often when the goal of adoption is not achieved, PRT assists in finding connections and supports for the children.

South Dakota began implementing Permanency Round Tables within Regions in January 2017. Implementation began with Values Training in Region 4 followed by Skills Training on January 23, 2017. Region 7 held Values Training on April 25, 2017 and with Skills Training on May 16, 2017. Region 2 held values and skills training in July 2017.

There are seven regions in SD and currently there are three Regions (2, 4, and 7) using PRT’s to assist with long term cases. South Dakota is currently focusing at children in care/custody for 24+ months with no identified resources. At this time, there are 47 children having Permanency Round Table Meetings and 2 children have been reunified with family.

Region 5 will have PRT Training at the end of July 2018 and Region 3 is planning to schedule training for October 2018. Region 1 and 6 have yet to receive training. Trainings are scheduled to be complete for the entire state by 2020.

### Kinship Recruitment and Placement

#### **Policy and Procedure Revisions and Training**

CPS had strategies in place and was implementing strategies during the 2016 CFSR, which were intended to positively impact relative placements, yet the review showed “placement with relatives” was an area needing improvement. CPS identified the need to improve the CPS Policy and Procedure Manual related to kinship; a workgroup was formed with participants from CPS state office staff and field staff. The group reviewed existing policy, rearranged it to flow in a more practical manner, added step-by-step explanations to help staff better understand the kinship process, and approach to working with kinship families. In November and December of 2017, the Foster Care and Kinship Program Specialist and the Adoption Program Specialist scheduled trainings in each of the 7 CPS Regions to review the enhanced policy and procedure related to kinship. All staff, with the exception of intake staff, were mandated to attend the training. Areas of discussion in all regions were guidance related to diligent search, how to address relatives who are unresponsive to notifications from CPS to determine if they would like to be considered as a placement or connection for their relative, and clarification related to policy about kinship care and fictive kinship care.

<u>Training Date</u>	<u>Offices</u>
November 3	Rapid City
November 8	Chamberlain, Winner and Mission
November 9	Hot Springs, Deadwood, Sturgis
November 16	Pierre, Mobridge, and Eagle Butte
November 17	Rapid City
December 1	Watertown, Huron, Aberdeen and Brookings
December 4 and 5	Sioux Falls
December 14	Mitchell, Lake Andes, Yankton and Vermillion

## Kinship Locators

CPS has used Kinship Locators to locate and contact relatives for potential placement and to maintain connections for children in custody. CPS has designated FTE as Kinship Locators in Regions 3 and 6. In FY15, CPS added a Kinship Locator to Region 2 via a contract with a former CPS employee. In FY16, CPS added Kinship Locators to Regions 5 and 7 via another contract with Lutheran Social Services (LSS). There was a change during the past year in the CPS Kinship Locator positions in Region 1 and 4. In Region 1, kinship locators are now called resource specialists. They are assigned to cases when children are entering DSS custody or believed to be coming into custody. They search for relative placement as first priority over placement in foster care and continually search for relatives throughout the life of the case. The resource specialists are assigned to relative homes and provide support and help the family get needed services during placement of a relative child. They are responsible for making referrals for the family to PRIDE or Unity. When emergencies occur and a child is removed from their home at night, the resource specialist will assist in locating a relative placement so the child doesn't have to be placed in foster care. In Region 4, all staff are expected to assist in identifying kinship resources for possible home studies.

## Kinship Home Studies

The Lutheran Social Services and Sicangu Child and Family Services (SCFS) contracts continue to be beneficial in assessing relatives for potential placement options. CPS strives to locate kinship families who can provide a safe and nurturing environment for relative children as soon as possible after a child enters care. Therefore, it's important a thorough home study be completed within 30 days, which remains the goal for the contracted agencies completing kinship home studies.

Not only has the number of referrals for home studies to LSS increased since the beginning of the contract in FY14, the timeliness of completed home studies has also shown improvement. The most recent improvements in timeliness is due to the \$195,195.00 increase in funding as a result of the CPS budget request which was supported through the 2017 legislative process and became available on July 1, 2017. LSS was able to hire more staff to meet the ever growing need for timely kinship home studies, both for kinship families in state and for kinship families through the ICPC process. Lutheran Social Services improved their timeliness from 65% to 74% of the home studies in 30 days, while Sicangu Child and Family Services completed kinship home studies within 30 days 34% of the time.

A review of home studies which were not completed within the 30 day timeframe found those home studies required more out of state central registry or child abuse and neglect checks to be completed as the potential resource lived in a number of other states prior to living in South Dakota. These types of checks are necessary to ensure there is no substantiated history of child abuse and neglect, but can often times prolong the time it takes to complete the study.

As processes become more defined and the appropriate kinship families are selected to be assessed for placement, the timeframes to complete them are decreasing. The chart below shows the number of children a home study was requested from LSS on behalf of.

	<b>SFY2016</b>	<b>SFY2017</b>	<b>SFY2018</b>
<b>In State Children</b>	319	295	315
<b>Out of State Children</b>	112	106	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>427</b>

The number of children SD completes kinship home studies for as well as the number of home studies being completed has increased.

CPS contracted with Sicangu Child and Family Services (SCFS) to complete kinship home studies and foster care licensing home studies for children in custody whose relatives live on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in FY13. CPS made 75 kinship home study referrals to Sicangu since the beginning of the contract with the following outcomes:

- 75 referrals:
  - 44 completed and approved
  - 7 denied
  - 10 closed prior to completion (either because the study was no longer needed by CPS or the court closed the case)
  - 8 families withdrew from the process for personal reasons
  - 3 families failed to follow through
  - 1 family moved out of the Rosebud area before the study could be initiated
  - 2 requests closed prior to completion due to concerns with the safety of the home upon initial contact

CPS also made 51 referrals for home studies for prospective foster families with the following outcomes:

- 51 referrals
  - 25 licensed and/or approved
  - 11 withdrew
  - 15 closed due to lack of follow-through

## **Fictive Kin**

There continues to be an increase in fictive kin placements. With the shortage of foster homes and relatives able to care for children, CPS is utilizing fictive kin, which are people who have a significant relationship with the child, for placement. When there is a significant relationship between a child and a potential non-related caregiver and the parent, court and CPS state office have approved the placement, the child may be placed with the fictive kin. Prior to approval of this placement, background checks and reference checks are completed, a home visit is conducted, and fictive kin placement provider agrees to complete the process to become a licensed foster parent. As of May 10<sup>th</sup> 2018, CPS had 37 children in a fictive kin placement. The break out for each region is shown below.

- **Region 1** has 15 children
- **Region 2** has 3 children
- **Region 3** has 1 child
- **Region 4** has 5 children
- **Region 5** has 3 children
- **Region 6** has 5 children
- **Region 7** has 5 children

## **Kinship Data**

The number of non-licensed kinship placements increased during SFY 16, SFY 17 and again in SFY 18. Licensed kinship placements were on the rise in SFY 16 and 17, but fell in SFY18. Fictive Kin placements are captured for SFY 18. The total number of kinship placements is on the rise.

	SFY 14	SFY 15	SFY 16	SFY17	SFY 18
Kinship Placements	183	200	245	271	320
Licensed Kinship Placements	63	37	87	88	75
Fictive Kin Placements					(37) Included above
<b>Total Kinship Placements</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>395</b>

### Sibling Placement Practice

Findings from the 2016 CFSR revealed case documentation was lacking on why children were placed separately from siblings and what efforts were made to place them together. CPS revised sibling placement policy to enhance practice, which addressed the placement of siblings when they enter care and when they enter care before or after another of their siblings has been placed. This policy includes information on the importance of placing siblings together; licensing rules related to placing siblings together; searching for resources who will care for siblings groups; preserving sibling connections when they are not able to be placed together; what constitutes allowable reasons for separating siblings; and procedures to follow if permanent separation of siblings is a necessary. CPS Program Specialists provided Regional training to all staff statewide beginning in May 2015 and finishing in August 2015. The Program Specialists also provided consultation to staff during the training when requested by staff regarding cases where siblings have been separated or cases where attempts have been made to place siblings together. All offices implemented a strategy to discuss each case monthly where siblings are separated and develop a plan to place them together and maintain connections until they can be together. A process for group case consultation related to review of cases when siblings are separated was established. The group is composed of the Family Services Specialist, the Family Services Specialist Supervisor, and the Foster Care and Adoption Program Specialists.

This group consultation process occurs when staff struggle with locating placement resources able to care for a sibling group together. Many of the issues revolve around sibling groups of 5 or more children when there are significant behavioral and treatment needs involved. Foster families are able to care for 2 or 3 of the children, but not all due to the needs of the children. When children are not able to be placed with their sibling(s), staff work hard to maintain the sibling connection by ensuring visits occur or other types of contact are provided such as phone calls or Skype. Another practice which is encouraged for siblings who are separated because of their behaviors when together, is sibling therapy to build a positive relationship between the siblings, and to better assess what can be done to possibly place them together in the future.

As a result of new or ongoing efforts which have been incorporated into practice, CPS has seen an increase in active discussions around placing siblings together prior to reunification. Discussion continues to occur between state office and the local office staff around locating permanent placements for siblings who were once separated. Issues impacting sibling placement include: siblings group where ICWA applies to some of the children and not others; siblings with different fathers; resource family has a significant relationship to the child because of the child previously being placed with them, and the placement resource does not agree to taking the sibling who has just entered care; and finding resource families who will take large sibling groups. The philosophy of CPS to keep siblings together is continually being stressed with resource families throughout the life of a child's case.

Local offices around the state are tracking the number of cases where siblings are not placed together. Based on case reviews, the reasons for not placing children together were:

- Child was placed in psychiatric residential treatment or had medical, or behavioral needs
- Multiple children residing with different relatives
- Lack of resources willing to take large sibling groups
- Siblings entering care at different times
- Siblings having different fathers
- A sibling not in care
- A child transitioning to trial reunification sooner than their siblings
- Due to the length of time in placement with the resource, the children and family have bonded and the local CPS staff are reluctant to disrupt the placement

### Services to Children Under the Age of 5

CPS provides a number of interventions intended to help achieve permanency in a timely manner. While the majority of these interventions can apply to any age of child in care, the interventions can be focused on children based on age and needs.

CPS experience is the children in this age group have a high potential for being placed in a permanent family. CPS provides child development training to new staff and uses a range of services to help facilitate this result including: relative searches, concurrent planning, placement team meetings, Birth to Three, developmental assessments, FASD evaluations, special needs day care, and mental health referrals.

When CPS staff visit the placement resource and child, the staff and foster parent discuss the following information: placement stability issues and needs the resource provider might have, the child's medical, mental health, educational and developmental milestones/needs; the child's social activities and connections for the month; as well as any progress made towards the permanency plan. CPS staff will discuss the same type of information when visiting families in an in-home case. Questions the CPS staff ask the caretaker when assessing the development and education of the child:

#### Development-

- Are there current services? What are they and for what purpose?
- An assessment of: Gross motor skills, Fine motor skills, Cognition, Expressive and receptive language, Social Interactions, Age-appropriate activities of daily living.
- Are there concerns?
- Services in the past, needs?
- Is there a history of trauma?
- Document and refer to services, if needed.
- Substantiated cases-require Birth to 3 screening.
- Activities which promote the social and emotional development of a child.

#### Education-

- What grade is the child in?
- What school?
- Who is the teacher or counselor?
- Can parent sign a release to check on how things are going?
- IEP? For what? Do parents have a copy? Attend meetings?
- Attendance concerns?
- Grades?

- Attending parent conferences?
- Any issues with education needs met?
- Special Ed needs?
- Pre-school?
- IFSP?
- Education-School-where are they going? History of performance, IEP attendance? What is the parent involvement?
- Birth to Three

The child is met with on an individual basis for the staff to discuss, observe, and assess the safety of the child residing both in an in-home placement as well as out of home placement. CPS staff use different tools to assess and address the developmental needs of a child in out of home and in-home placements. A Milestone Chart is used to show the developmental milestone a child should be at from 1 month to age 5. CPS uses Well Child Check Charts to document the ages and times a child is to have medical, dental and eye exams. The Period of PURPLE crying is a research-based education program which teaches parents about the normal period of increased crying which occurs in ALL infants. This is used by CPS staff to reassure parents and resource parents during the first few months with a newborn. The Child Case Plan and Protective Capacity Assessment also include the domains of emotional, mental health, and physical needs which help staff focus on the needs of the child.

The South Dakota Birth to Three Program provides free early intervention services for children from birth to age 3 who have a disability or a developmental delay. CPS staff will make referrals or assist the parent and resource parent in getting services as needed.

CPS staffs are educated in Permanency and Well-Being Certification Training on a number of developmental disorders and things to look for when working with young children which include:

- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Prenatal Exposure to Drugs
- Special Care for Severely Abused Infants
- Failure to Thrive
- Cerebral Palsy
- Safe Sleep/SIDS (getting plenty of tummy time to help reduce SIDS)

The use of Team meetings helps facilitate relative involvement, kinship care, and relationship building between parents and foster parents. CPS has increased regularity of parent/child visits through the use of family visitation centers, increased efforts with the non-resident parent for placement options, and has an adoption committee to review progress and address barriers affecting timeliness of adoption.

CPS is implementing the enhancements to the CSI model which involves establishment of Conditions for Return related to the safety plan determination, which will contribute to more precise assessments related to reunification decision-making. The objectives are to improve safety decisions and timeliness related to reunification and other permanency decisions. This, along with the safety plans CPS develops at the time of trial reunification, are expected to provide staff with a more effective and precise instrument to make decisions in a timely manner for all children, which will also impact children under the age of 5.

CPS uses FACIS assessment screens which are used to track children's mental health, physical health, developmental needs, and educational needs, which will further assist CPS in monitoring and focusing on the needs and outcomes of this population. CPS enhanced training related to serving this population.

CPS expanded the contract for kinship home studies with the goal of increasing kinship placement resources, including Native American placement resources. Objectives of the contract are to enhance engagement of prospective relative resources and expedite the kinship approval process to allow children to be placed more quickly with qualified relative placement resources.

CPS has a number of recruitment efforts underway to increase kinship, foster parent and adoptive placement resources, including Native American resources, which have the potential of decreasing the length of time children, are in care without a permanent family. CPS continues the geographically targeted recruitment effort to focus recruitment on the specific localized needs. CPS is involved in a collaborative recruitment effort with the Tribes through technical assistance from Casey Family Programs. The ICWA Placement Recruitment Project was established to increase Native American placement resources for Native American children. Each of these efforts is described in the Targeted Recruitment Plan included with the CFSP.

The mandated court appointed attorney training provided by the Unified Judicial System includes information on child development, which can increase awareness in the court process of younger children's needs.

The children in CPS custody are tracked through the state's SACWIS (FACIS). FACIS is able to gather a number of demographic items related to children in care and their families. CPS will assess what reports could be developed to help in increasing the ability of CPS to estimate the number of children under the age of 5 who will be without a permanent home during a given year and report characteristic information regarding this group of children.

There were 820 children served under the age of 5 in SFY 17. There were 319 children in this age category discharged from care in SFY 17. In SFY 18, 947 children were served under the age of 5. In SFY 18, 427 children in this age category were discharged from care. The percentage of discharge reasons, in SFY 2018, for the 427 children served under age 5 were:

- 55.1 % were reunified with their parents.
- 13.6% were transferred to a tribe.
- 0.7% was transferred to another agency.
- 21.9% were adopted
- 5.9 % were placed in a guardianship.
- 2.8% were placed with a relative.

## Promoting Safe and Stable Families Funds

CPS continues to use Promoting Safe and Stable Families (IVB Part II) funds to assist with providing services which help keep children in their homes, support parents to keep children safe when reunification occurs, assure stability of placements with foster parents, kinship parents, and adoptive parents, and facilitate adoptions. CPS views Promoting Safe and Stable Families funds as a critical source for situations where even basic levels of support can make the difference in the success of family preservation. CPS will continue to request approval to use funds to provide:

- Contract services for Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and kin placement home studies to support temporary and permanent placement with relatives;
- Contract services for adoption support and post-adoption services such as counseling, pre-placement visits, parenting educational services;
- Contract for legal services to expedite permanency for children through the court process.
- Consultation services to expedite adoption placements;
- Child parent visitation through contracts with visitation centers; and

In addition, funds will be made available for staff to help families meet needs which can help with placement prevention or reunification, including:

- Transportation- bus tickets, gas cards- for parents to access services and employment.
- Rental assistance, utility deposits to support placement prevention and reunification.
- Crisis or other day care to support placement prevention and reunification.
- Counseling/treatment for parents.
- Assessments and evaluations for parents and children to assess danger threats and determine service needs.
- Alcohol and drug treatment and testing for parents to assess danger threats and determine service needs.
- Supports and services to Present Danger Plan and Safety Plan providers to prevent children from entering care.
- Needs for kinship placement resources-beds, cribs, high chairs, initial food or clothing, etc.

Approval for use of funds must be provided by Regional Managers and State Office.

The IVB Part II Funds will be allocated as follows:

- Family Preservation Services- 29%  
CPS needs to enhance implementation of interventions in maintaining children in their homes and determining when children can be reunified. Funds will be used to support these efforts.
- Family Support Services-24%  
The services and reason the service providers were selected include: community based family visitation center services for parents and their children, which were selected for contracting based on the fact they were already providing visitation services; community based counseling for parents and children selected based on the treatment providers who provide a specific type of service and expertise; FAS screenings by the University of South Dakota Medical School with the expertise in this area.
- Time Limited Family Reunification Services-22%  
CPS will be increasing efforts to improve timeliness of permanency and funds will be used in this area to support those efforts.

- Adoption Promotion and Support Services-25%  
CPS will be increasing efforts to improve timeliness of permanency and assure stability of adoptions and funds will be used in this area to support those efforts.

## Caseworker Visits

CPS continues to use the caseworker visits screens to track frequency and location of visits by Family Services Specialists. CPS monitors caseworker visits through random calls to foster parents. Reports from Family Services Specialists' narratives and caseworker visits documented on screens are available to supervisors through FACIS. CPS will continue to use the random calls and FACIS reports to assess the quality and frequency of caseworker visits.

CPS achieved a rate for monthly visits in FFY17 of 97.96% and 96.80% of those were in the residence. CPS believes it is important to provide a variety of settings for caseworker visits which allow children to express their feelings and talk about experiences while in care. Factors other than CPS staff not making all expected monthly visits which affect the level of compliance for visits are: other states inability in some cases for staff in those states to visit children monthly who are in South Dakota custody and placed in the other state; and the difficulty of tribes with IVE contracts to meet the required rate of visits. The following table shows the difference in visitation rates the previous three years when CPS staff were responsible for the visitations compared to when other states and tribal staff are responsible for visits. While the difference in the rate is not substantial, the difference can have more impact since the compliance rate increased to 95%. CPS continues to collaborate with the tribal programs to improve their level of compliance.

Federal Fiscal Year	Rate of Monthly Visits Excluding Counting Other States and Tribes	Rate of Monthly Visits When Other States and Tribal Are Included
FFY 14	99.02%	97.44%
FFY 15	98.60%	97.68%
FFY 16	99.20%	96.54%
FFY 17	99.41%	97.96%

CPS is using Monthly Caseworker Visits funds to support caseworker visits during child/parent visits through use of a visitation center to allow children the opportunity to express what they are experiencing while in foster care and for Family Services Specialists to gain more insight into how the child is doing in the placement. Even with the use of family visitation centers to supplement visitation CPS is able to perform at a high level with caseworker visits. This also assists staff with their workload, which helps with staff retention.

### Caseworker Visits FFY 15 AND FFY 16

	% of Total Visits Held	% Held in Residence
FFY 15	97.37%	95.02%
FFY 16	96.54%	95.98%
FFY 17	97.96%	96.80%

## **Adoption Support Services and Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Activities**

### **2019 Update**

Child Protection Services placed 193 children in adoptive placement, with 156 children finalizing their adoption as of May 31, 2018. This is compared with 161 adoptions finalized in SFY 2017. The average number of months from initial placement to adoption finalization was 34.4 months compared to 34.2 months in SFY 2017, an increase of .2 months. In SFY 2018, 35.3% of adoptions finalized under 24 months, while 33.8% of adoptions finalized under 24 months in SFY17, an increase of 1.5%.

During SFY 2018, 54% of children adopted from the Department were adopted by their foster parents. This is a decrease from last year's data at 57%. Forty percent of children in SFY 2018 were adopted by relatives, which is an increase of 5% from SFY 2017, and 98% of relatives adopting were licensed as foster parents. The remaining 6% of adoptions are nonrelative families located through photo listings on the AdoptUsKids or Adoption Exchange web site or through targeted recruitment efforts by the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiters.

### **Timeliness to Adoption by Region**

	<b>Number of Finalized Adoptions</b>	<b>Average Months Between TPR and Finalization</b>	<b>Average Months Between Adoption Initiation and Finalization</b>	<b>Average Months Between TPR and Adoption Initiation</b>	<b>Average Month Between Initial Placement and Finalization</b>	<b>Percent of finalized adoptions within 24 months</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	38	16.8	3	13.9	26.3	55.3%
<b>Region 2</b>	8	11.7	1.9	9.8	22.6	50%
<b>Region 3</b>	18	12	1.7	10.2	35.8	16.7%
<b>Region 4</b>	3	23.1	7	16.1	66.9	33.3%
<b>Region 5</b>	23	8.7	2.8	5.9	25.5	65.2%
<b>Region 6</b>	56	14.8	2.3	12.6	37.2	14.3%
<b>Region 7</b>	8	21.4	5.5	15.9	39.2	12.5%

The Department continues to address barriers to timeliness of adoption. Legal delays remain the largest barrier to timeliness. In the Region 6, the most populated region, of the 56 finalized adoptions, 34% of the barriers to timeliness were legal delays. This can be broken down further as 34% of legal delays were because of court continuances, 26% of legal delays were because of a staffing issue in the Clerk of Courts which has since been resolved, 26% of legal delays were due to the length of time it took the judge to reach a decision, and 16% of legal delays were due to pursuing termination of parental rights for children who had a goal of APPLA. Analysis of timeliness in other regions will continue to address barriers.

Other common barriers besides the legal delays would include 11% of the cases involved sibling groups where ICWA applied, 9% were delayed because of treatment needs of the child and 7%

were cases were delayed because the children disrupted from trial reunification, reentered foster care and efforts toward the concurrent plan of adoption were initiated again.

To address some of the legal barriers, the Court Improvement Program Workgroup began revising the “South Dakota Guidelines for Child Abuse and Neglect Cases” (referred to as the “Green Book”) in March of 2018. The “Green Book” provides a guide for judges, attorneys and Child Protection Services staff regarding the judicial process for child abuse and neglect cases. The purpose of each hearing is explained and templates of court orders are provided. The workgroup will also be providing a standardized petition for termination of parental rights as new template. State statutes and federal laws, such as the Indian Child Welfare Act, that relate to child abuse and neglect proceedings are also referenced. The revisions to the “Green Book” are scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2018. Due to the retirement of many circuit court judges and many new states attorneys in counties, it is hoped the “Green Book” will provide better guidance and consistency among the states attorneys and the seven judicial circuits.

There are currently 191 children with the permanent plan of adoption in the Department of Social Services’ custody. Of those children, 63 do not have an identified adoption resource. CPS is making a number of efforts to locate families for these children and some of those efforts are detailed below.

Region 2 has been working on partnering with the America’s Kids Belong organization. AKB has opened a site in the western part of South Dakota. It is a 501© organization that mobilized government, faith-based, business and creative leaders around the goal of permanency and belonging for every child. Staff from Region 2 have been attending meetings in their area where the organization is working on gaining support for the program. The foster parents in the Northern Hills and some churches have begun this grass roots effort in SD. The Department has participated in attending a few of their functions. Currently the Department and AMB are working on developing an MOU.

Along with assistance in recruiting more families to provide foster care and adoption services, this organization is recruiting families to act as a support system to the families that are signing up to become licensed to care for children. Another service that AMB is willing to provide is videography for recruitment purposes. They have offered to create videos of children who are free for adoption, but do not have an identified adoptive resource. The video provides a mechanism to give children a voice through video and can aid in better matching of children with families

Efforts in the tribal areas are more tribe specific. A contract for legal services continues to be in place in the Cheyenne River area for cases in Region 3. This resulted in 13 youth being adopted through the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Court. This has proven to be an effective strategy for moving children to permanency. While it has not decreased the time to adoption, it does improve permanency outcomes for children. In another tribal area, a new termination process was implemented last year. This last fiscal year did not produce new adoptions as a result of this process, but it is a strategy that will continue to be used for specific types of cases. This involves the court terminating the parental rights of nonresident parents, who has failed to become involved in the case, at the time of the adoption hearing. One attorney is handling these cases.

Adoptions finalized in Region 4, which includes the Crow Creek, Lower Brule and Rosebud Sioux Reservations, averaged 66.9 months and there were only three adoptions finalized. The cause for these numbers can be attributed to turnover in tribal court personal. The Crow Creek Tribal Court was closed for a week in September with turnover in several key court positions. The new prosecutor appointed, used to be the legal aid attorney, which caused a conflict of interest in five child protection cases, as the prosecutor represented these families prior to her appointment as prosecutor. The tribe hired a special prosecutor for the five cases.

In the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Court, the tribal prosecutor was recruited for a new position with the tribal court leaving Children's Court without a prosecutor. A temporary prosecutor was recently hired while the tribe continues to recruit a full time prosecutor.

The barriers to timeliness in Region 7 were the result of a number of factors. In two cases the children had a previous disrupted adoptive placement and were placed their second adoptive family. One case had an appeal to the Supreme Court. In two cases the children were not emotionally ready to be adopted, so extra time was needed to prepare the children for adoption. In one case the family selected decided not to move forward with adoption.

Other barriers to timeliness to adoption are being identified through the Permanency Round Table (PRT) process. The Division of Child Protection Services implemented PRT's as a strategy to address permanency for children in foster care. PRT's are a structured, professional case consultation designed to develop an aggressive, innovative and realistic Permanency Action Plan for the child or sibling group. PRT's have been implemented in Regions 4, 7 and 2. Region 5 will begin PRT Values and Skill training in July 2018. Implementation begins once all staff in the region completes Values Training. Once completed, identified staff that will be part of PRTs, complete Skills Training. After staff are trained, the regional staff determine what children will be referred to a PRT. Region 4 had each worker pick a child on their caseload. A majority of the cases were cases that had stagnated and staff did not know how to proceed. All different permanency options have been staffed. After round tabling a youth, the process put cases back on track and cases start to move forward. Meetings usually consist of the Coordinator, the caseworker and supervisor, a designated staff from another region and CPS State Office. One youth participated in one of the roundtables along with her therapist. There are plans to include stakeholders as outside consultants in the future. A plan is developed with specific tasks assigned. The group continues to meet until permanency is established. After the initial roundtable there is a 30 day follow up and then every 120 days until permanency is achieved.

Over 50 children have been staffed through a PRT. This process has assisted staff by providing new ideas or approaches toward finding permanency for children. This process has also introduced staff toward more targeted recruitment for youth on their caseload. Additional education is being provided about referring children to the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program, photo listing children on AdoptUsKids and the Adoption Exchange, and utilizing other recruitment tools. Staff maybe resistant at first but after they are present for a couple of round tables they usually become enthusiastic about the process. Staff have been very positive about this process. Comments from staff prior to a PTR usually include feeling stuck in a case and after completion a PRT, they express feeling more positive about the case as they have new ideas or recommendations about relooking at a situation and trying something again that they may have tried years ago. Staff have commented on feeling supported through the process and not judged.

Through the PRT process, CPS achieved permanency through legal guardianship for four children that had been in placement for over four years. One youth was moved from residential treatment to his prospective adoptive family. In another case an adoptive family has been identified and the children are transitioning into their adoptive placement. In one PRT, the group was successful in locating a runaway. Staff have been able to connect with staff outside their region to share families.

One trend observed in Region 1 was having more relatives adopting children than foster families. As a whole the state's relative adoptions have been increasing. Region 1 had 42% of their children adopted by their foster families, while 45% of children were adopted by their relatives. This was a 12% increase from last year's numbers. It is 5% higher than the state average of 40%

### Post Adoption

At the end of SFY 2018, there were 1,830 children on adoption assistance through the Department of Social Services. During this last fiscal year, one adoptive family dissolved their adoption. This case involved a thirteen year old male youth who was placed in residential treatment at the family's request, and the family refused to work with the program to or allow the youth to come home. A second family attempted to dissolve their adoption, but the court refused the family's request. This child was placed in a group home and ran away from the facility. After the child was located, a court hearing was held and the family was asked to take their child home. The family refused and the court ordered the child into Child Protection Service's custody and ordered the Department to file an abuse and neglect petition on the adoptive family for abandonment. This case is pending in court and the youth will turn 18 in July.

The adoption program specialist works with adoptive families who are seeking access for psychiatric residential treatment or group care for their adopted child. The adoption program specialist assists families in determining what level of care their child may need, assists families with the state review process and in obtaining tuition funding. During SFY 2018, 24 adoptive youth received residential treatment and 6 received group care services. Of those youth in treatment, the Department paid tuition expenses for 18 of the 30 children. Treatment services include evaluations, crisis stabilization and step down from residential treatment. One youth was placed in treatment foster care as a step down service from residential treatment and the youth was successful transitioned back to his family.

CPS had a respite care contract with the Department of Human Services (DHS) that was available to all children adopted in the state during SFY 2018. Unfortunately, the respite care contract was not renewed for SFY 2019 due to lack of funding. DHS was notified in August 2017 that DSS would not be able to continue the contract after SFY 2018.

Families receiving adoption assistance have been able to submit individual requests for funding for specialized services related to pre-existing conditions recorded in their child's subsidy agreement. Some services funded for families include, but are not limited to tutoring services, Behavioral Care Specialist Services, fetal alcohol testing, genetic testing, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy, Psycho-Sexual Evaluations, Bio-Feed Back testing, various camps, educational programming, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, autism evaluations, special needs daycare, medical equipment, vehicle modifications, home modifications, diapers, medical supplies, special formulas, and equine therapy. CPS contracts with Children's Home Society (CHS) for post adoption services. Efforts continue to increase services statewide. An increase in services on the western part of the state has occurred and the contractor is offering services through video conferencing for others across the state. The contract supports an annual conference for mental health providers, social work, educators and CPS staff to enhance adoption competency.

#### Post-Adoption Services Contract Outcomes for SFY 2018

##### **The contract funds the following:**

- 1 full time therapist in Sioux Falls
- 1 part time therapist (5-6 hours per week) in Sioux Falls
- A block of time in Rapid City for CHS therapists to dedicate to some post-adoption support cases. (Generally allows for about 5 cases at any given time).
- Funding to organize and put on an adoption services conference each year.

##### **Referrals received for adoption support services:**

Sioux Falls: 13 youth referred      Rapid City: 9 youth referred

##### **Youth and families served on a regular basis as part of an active current caseload:**

Sioux Falls: 14 youth and 10 families      Rapid City: 4 youth and 3 families

##### **Youth and families served intermittently on an as needed basis:**

Sioux Falls: 6 youth and 6 families

Rapid City: 2 youth and one family

**New youth and families that began to receive services in 2017-18:**

Sioux Falls: 10 youth and 9 families

Rapid City: 6 youth and 5 families

**Total number of youth and families receiving adoption support and therapy services:**

Sioux Falls: 20 youth and 13 families

Rapid City: 15 youth and 8 families

**Total served across both CHS locations:**

35 youth and 21 families

**Average length of time regular services are provided:**

Approximately 12 months in either location.

**Remote clients/technology used to connect:**

- An on-line Web-ex meeting was scheduled to occur with one family, but the connection did not work, and they did not conduct the session via video. They switched to phone.
- A second family is scheduled to conduct sessions this summer via web-ex.

**Post Adoption Trends**

- A greater number of sibling groups are begin referred for services.
- Families are seeking services multiple times over the course of several years.
- Knowing that post-adoption support services are available, creates comfort for families and perhaps accelerates the adoption finalization.
- Post-adoption services works particularly well with therapeutic families who have already been receiving services. This provides some support immediately after the adoption to help manage the inevitable issues that come up.

**Types of Services Provided**

- Individual child therapy
- Consultation
- Family therapy
- Crisis intervention
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR)
- Referral to appropriate services
- One on one parent education
- Psycho-educational services
- Family support

**Post Adoption Services Outcomes**

- The average length of time cases are open for regularly occurring services is slightly over 12 months.
- In Rapid City, five youth transitioned from treatment foster care to adoptive placement status with their treatment foster family and received post adoption services to help manage this transition. The average length of these transition services is about 10 months.
- Of the 15 youth served in Rapid City during this report period, 11 have been discharged from services. All 11 of these youth remained in their adoptive homes throughout the

provision of services, did not require placement in residential treatment or group care and continue in their adoptive homes.

- In Rapid City a sibling group of three adopted by relatives and at high risk of disruption, became involved with CPS through a report of abuse and neglect. The children were placed in care, with one child entering residential treatment. Services were provided for approximately 20 months. CHS became involved via the adoption contract and two of the siblings were reunified with the adoptive family soon after providing services and the other sibling was recently discharged from residential treatment and reunified with his family. CHS continues to provide services to the family, CPS case is closed.

### **Adoption Competency Training**

A training was held on April 20, 2018 in Sioux Falls on “Transitions for Youth and Understanding Sibling Relationships”. The topic was selected as a result of recommendations from last year’s conference attendees. Loryn Smith presented the **training**. Since South Dakota continues to experience a large number of sibling groups in care and seeking adoption placements, it was believed this was an appropriate topic area. The daytime conference had 48 professionals in attendance, which included 26 staff from CPS, 16 staff from CHS and 6 mental health therapists. A parent workshop was held in the evening for families who have adopted or who wish to adopt. There were 20 parents attending the evening workshop. The feedback from the attendees was very positive.

### **Additional Services by Children’s Home Society**

- **Sibling Evaluations:** The adoption therapist continues to complete sibling evaluations as requested by the Department for the purpose of adoption and # were completed during SFY2018.
- **Training:**
  - July 18, 2017: “How early childhood trauma affects the brain” presented to SD Dept. of Health Employees; 35 people.
  - October 3, 10, 17: Beyond Consequences training for foster and adoptive parents - 4 parents.
  - March 15, 2018: Beyond Consequences training for 2 adoptive parents.

### **Sioux Falls - Wendy’s Wonderful Kids**

The Wendy’s Wonderful Kids (WWK) recruiter in Sioux Falls has 20 youth on her caseload. During SFY 2018, six adoptions finalized and eleven children were matched with an adoptive family. It is estimated that six or more adoptions will occur within the next year. There are two youth who are not being considered for adoption at this time due to being in residential treatment.

The most interesting and challenging trend is involving those youth whose plan is guardianship. The trend has continued with even more youth referred for guardianship. The concern for the WWK recruiter is that many families are not interested in guardianship, families fear the uncertainty, and they really are seeking adoption.

### **Rapid City - Wendy’s Wonderful Kids**

There are currently 29 youth on the WWK caseload in Rapid City. During this past year, 7 adoptions were finalized, 1 guardianship finalized, and 10 other youth who were matched with an adoptive family and are awaiting finalization. Two additional adoptions will finalize in June 2018 for a total of 10 children achieving permanency through adoption and guardianship. There are four youth who are not being considered for adoption at this time due to being in residential

treatment. WWK is recruiting for five children who have not been matched with an adoptive family yet.

The most significant trend for the Rapid City site has been the increase in the number of sibling groups, as well as the size of the sibling groups, which poses some challenges when the goal is to keep siblings together.

**Role of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter:**

- Mine child's file to learn about child's needs and any possible connections which could be explored
- Provide professional photos for recruitment and for child's life book
- Complete initial youth assessment/recruitment narrative
- Complete initial recruitment plan
- Develop relationship with child – understand what they hope for in an adoptive home
- Develop relationship with other team members
- Have monthly visits with child
- Manage online profiles
- Do reverse searches on listing websites and reach out to possible families
- Feature children in online matching events/participate in online family matching events
- Review incoming home studies and provide summaries to workers
- Participate in treatment reviews, school meetings, team meetings as needed.
- Help with transition planning and visits when possible
- Assist in adoption preparation with child & family when needed
- Provide adoption resources to child, foster family as needed
- Review all state home studies that are completed, provide those families with a letter connecting them to our CHS Heart Gallery link
- Support worker in knowing the history of the child's case, child's needs
- Attend monthly children's workers meetings
- Have ongoing communication with worker about inquiries and recruitment efforts on a child
- Provide recruitment summary for when child has upcoming court hearing
- Meet with licensing workers of inquiring families to share about a child/learn about the family
- Help to share about a child to a family and interview the family
- Help present families in adoption conference calls
- Assist in decision-making of selecting a family during adoption conference calls
- Attend adoption finalizations when possible
- Assist in searching for extended relatives
- Reach out to engage family and the child's past connections

**Recruitment Efforts:**

The WWK model focuses almost exclusively on child focused recruiting and family finding. Traditional methods of recruitment, i.e. commercials and other general recruitment have not produced the results like WWK. Every case is a little different when it comes to methods used to find the right family for a child.

### Inter-Country Adoptions

There were no instances of children who were adopted internationally entering CPS care due to an adoption disruption or dissolution during FY 18

### Adoption Incentive Funds

CPS used Adoption Incentive funds for:

- adoption support services under the Post Adoption contract
- an adoption recruitment and support contract with Wendy's Wonderful Kids
- contracts to provide ICPC placement services and supervision for an adoptive home in another state

CPS will continue to use adoption incentive funds for the Post Adoption and Wendy's Wonderful Kids contracts, support services to adoptive and pre-adoptive families, and support services to children who are legally free for adoption.

### Legal Guardianship

Since Legal Guardianship Incentive funds are relatively new, there has been limited use of the funds. Legal Guardianship Incentive funds have been used to assist families who were in the process of receiving legal guardianship with purchasing extra beds, transportation costs for guardianship preparation, and fees for legal services to finalize guardianships. Many of the families who became legal guardians are relatives with limited resources. In SFY 2018, only 5 children where a subsidized guardianship was requested were eligible for the Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) subsidy. One of these children was with a Tribal agency which has a Title IV-E Agreement with the State. The total number of subsidized guardianships requested and provided to families taking guardianship of children in DSS custody was 67.

### Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements

Based on the analysis completed during the development of the statewide assessment in preparation for the 2016 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), it was discovered South Dakota wasn't completing ICPC home studies within 60 days in a majority of the cases. Further analysis found the state's contractor was taking longer to complete home studies than in previous years since the contractor was receiving more requests from CPS for in-state home studies, as well as ICPC home studies coming from other states. In SFY 14, 63 ICPC home study requests were received. In SFY 15, 60 ICPC home study requests were received. In SFY 16, 80 ICPC home study requests were received, 10 of which were Regulation 7 (expedited) requests. Since the beginning of the Kinship Home Study contract in SFY 14, the number of ICPC home study requests has increased by 27 referrals required to be completed within 60 days). Ten of the referrals were Regulation 7 requests which are required to be completed within 30 days.

After exploring this further, CPS realized producing a home study even without a placement determination was more significant than providing a home study with a placement determination. The number one reason for overdue home studies was due to waiting for Out of State Abuse and Neglect checks to come back on individuals being evaluated for the process. Another issue found was when Lutheran Social Services (LSS) (contracted agency to complete home studies) initiated contact with potential resources the resources did not always reply in a timely manner resulting in a lengthy home study process. CPS requested an increase in funding during the 2017 legislative session to support the growth of ICPC requests. CPS received \$195,195.00 to support the increase in the contract to address the growth in requests, which will allow the contractor to hire additional staff to complete home studies across the state.

A new process for completing kinship home studies is being implemented to help decrease the time it takes CPS to complete ICPC home study requests on relatives and parents. CPS is working with LSS to decrease the time it takes to contact potential resources to start the home study process. If resources do not respond to the attempted contacts, LSS sends a letter to the potential resource closing the case due to no response. Another new endeavor to provide a timely home study for a requesting state is to complete the study without the out of state background checks if they are not received in time. The home study will be written and sent to the requesting state without a placement determination. Once the background check results are received a placement determination will be made.

South Dakota has started to send some home studies to other states prior to all background check results being received without a placement approval. At this time, the results of those home studies being sent to the sending state is not captured in our FACIS data, as SD has always defined a home study to be completed once all information was documented, assessed and included for the appropriate persons to sign off for placement approval.

In comparing the ICPC “incoming requests” data from SFY 2016 to SFY 2017, an increase of 43 ICPC requests were made to SD from the year prior. Since SFY 2014 there has been a gradual increase of incoming home study requests. The average amount of days it took to complete incoming home study (foster care, adoption, parental and kinship) requests in SFY 2017 was approximately 81 days. Thirty-two percent of home studies were completed within 60 days. CPS uses the PRIDE pre-service training program; the home study is being written while the family is completing the training. The home study isn’t fully written until the pre-service training has been completed which generally takes participants 2 to 4 months to complete. Parental and kinship home study requests do not require the PRIDE training, therefore are being completed more timely.

<b>Types of Requests</b>	<b>SFY 16</b>	<b>SFY 17</b>
Adoption	37	61
Foster Home	46	41
Group/Residential	17	25
Parent/Relative	134	141
<b>Total Requests</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>271</b>

### Revised Child Case Plan

A workgroup was created in August 2014 to make improvements to the Child Case Plan. The trainers for Permanency and Well-Being Certification training composed the workgroup for the project. The workgroup started by surveying staff who are responsible for completing Child Case Plans to get their input on what they like and what they would like to see change with the Child Case Plan. The workgroup went through the surveys and noted some trends. The Child Case Plan was revised to make sure all the requirements for the Permanency and Well-Being Items in the CFSR were incorporated to help staff in meeting certain Permanency and Well Being Outcomes. Some of the changes requested by staff were also made. CPS was able to combine other forms into the plan, which would help with workload. The Child Case Plan pilot started August 2016 in the Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Mission offices. The Child Case Plan was fully implemented statewide on August 1, 2016. Ongoing coaching is occurring on a regional level; please see the Outcomes Management section for further details.

## Parent and Child Narratives and Caseworker Visit Screens

CPS determined there was a need for standardized requirements related to documenting caseworker visits with children. Various templates were being used by specific offices and Regions, but there were no formal statewide requirements. This project began in April 2014 and a workgroup was formed in July 2014 comprised of Program Specialists and Regional Managers. Information and input was gathered from the Supervisors Advisory Group (SAG) and Management Team. The project was then put on hold until January 2015 due to other Division priorities. The project began again with further input requested from SAG in February 2016.

The Management Team also decided there was a need for parent visit screens to document visits with parents more accurately. The workgroup decided to combine the case narrative screens with the current separate visit screens used to report the caseworker visits data. The goal was to reduce redundant data entry and help ensure consistency across both screens. A process was developed so workers entered their visit narrative documentation which then auto-populates the caseworker visit screen. The workgroup developed a tab format with key components expected of a quality visit for both child and parent visit narratives. Staff must complete all sections for the narrative to be complete. The parent visit screens were implemented December 2016. The new case narrative screens with tabs for each required section and auto-populating visit screens from narrative implemented April 2017.

Office specific training for all CPS staff began on March 20, 2017 and will be completed by July 31, 2017.

In May of 2018, the CQI Core Team prepared a survey of Family Service Specialists to gather their input relating to the effectiveness, efficiency, and functionality of the narrative tabs. After the survey is completed, a Family Services Specialist Supervisor Survey will be completed to gather their input relating to the effectiveness, efficiency, and functionality of the narrative tabs. Seventy one FSS participated in the survey and the results are captured below:

- Staff were asked if they had enough training relating to the caseworker visit tabs
  - 56.34% Yes
  - 21.13% No
  - 22.54% I did not get training
- Staff were asked if they use the tool that was provided to them to help guide them in using the caseworker visit tabs
  - 73.24% Yes
  - 14.08% No
  - 12.68% I did not get a tool
- Staff were asked if the caseworker visit tabs help them in capturing the required information about visits with parents
  - 73.24% Yes
  - 26.76% No
- The following were found to be trends in what FSS would like to see change with the caseworker visits tabs
  - Condense the tabs
  - Don't make any changes-like the tabs the way they are
  - Repetitive information between the tabs and other documents
  - More Training
  - Create separate tabs for in home cases
  - Get rid of the tabs
  - Use the tabs for efforts to locate parents

Further information, including a supervisory survey regarding narrative tabs will be completed in FFY19. Based on the analysis of the information, enhancements may be implemented into the narrative tab format.

## VIII. HEALTH CARE OVERSIGHT AND COORDINATION PLAN

### 2018 Progress Update

Goal: Children in the custody of the Department of Social Services will not require psychotropic medications as a treatment intervention.

Objective A: Decrease the number of youth prescribed psychotropic medications.

Strategy 1: Enhance training of Family Service Specialist regarding psychotropic medications.

Action Step:

- Develop ongoing training for Child Protection Services staff regarding the utilization and monitoring of psychotropic medications.

### **2019 Update**

All seven regions were provided on-site training based on data gathered from case reviews completed by the Residential/Group Care Program Specialist. The case reviews focused on completion of the Informed Consent form for each child prescribed psychotropic drugs and to ensure that the child's medical and mental health information was current and entered in the Health Assessment screens in FACIS. Training for staff regarding the utilization and monitoring of psychotropic medications was completed for all staff by 02/22/2018. The dates of training are listed below:

- Region 1 8/16/2017
- Region 2 2/22/2018
- Region 3 7/19/2017
- Region 4 8/28/2017
- Region 5 6/20/2017
- Region 6 7/11/2017
- Region 7 6/20/2017

Strategy 2: Evaluate and enhance the Informed Consent form for the utilization of psychotropic medications. This strategy was completed. CPS will be **transitioning the information and practices of the Informed Consent form to the Child Case Plan. The revised Child Case Plan and policy will rolled out to staff by September 1, 2018. Ongoing monitoring of the child case plans, narratives and Health Assessment screens will continue to ensure psychotropic medication oversight.**

Strategy 3: Monitor utilization of psychotropic medications through case reviews of children prescribed psychotropic medications

➤ Action Step:

Complete annual case reviews.

The Residential/Group Care Program Specialist reviews the Informed Consent form for children in state custody in a treatment facility when a psychotropic medication is prescribed or a change in medication is recommended. Random case pulls by the Program Specialist will assure policy and procedure is followed for continued assessment of the strengths and areas of development regarding utilization of the Informed Consent process.

## 2019 Update

The Division reviewed 115 of 245 youth (47%) on psychotropic medication and placed in a residential treatment facility or a group care center in June 2018 to determine if each child had a completed Informed Consent form on file. The results are as follows:

- A Psychotropic Medication Informed Consent form was utilized in 101 or 88% of the cases reviewed.
- In the 14 (12%) cases without a Psychotropic Medication Informed Consent form, there was other documentation such as psychiatric assessments and mental health evaluations to justify the use of psychotropic medication.
- FACIS Health Assessment Screens in all 115 cases had key data entered with pharmacy claims consistently documented.

Strategy 3: Utilize data from the Division of Medical Services to monitor trends related to utilization of psychotropic medications for youth in the custody of DSS.

### Action Step:

- Develop specific timeframes for the Division of Medical Services to deliver the Prescribed Psychotropic Drug file to CPS.

As a result of the positive trends in the reduction of utilization of psychotropic medications, along with additional monitoring processes that are in place, it was decided CPS would conduct an annual review, not biannual review of the Prescribed Psychotropic Drug file to monitor the utilization of psychotropic medications from one year to the next. The tables below show significant and consistent decreases from the first review in 2011. Due to the slight increase from 2014 to 2015, CPS instituted a case review process to monitor implementation of the protocols and procedures related to monitoring and oversight of psychotropic medications.

Children on Psychotropic Medications Compared to All Children in Care							
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Percentage of Children	26.92%	23.58%	20.22%	16.32%	16.44%	14.40%	14.58%

Psychotropic Drugs	(Dispensed August to October 2011)	%	(Dispensed August to October 2012)	%	DIFF	% DIFF
Total Children in File	396		341		55	
Children on 1 drug	173	43.69%	147	43.11%	26	0.58%
Children on 2 drugs	135	34.09%	113	33.14%	22	0.95%
Children on 3 drugs	53	13.38%	59	17.30%	-6	-3.92%
Children on 4 drugs	23	5.81%	22	6.45%	1	-0.64%
Children on 5 drugs	8	2.02%	0	0.00%	8	2.02%
Children on 6 drugs	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Children on 7 drugs	3	0.76%	0	0.00%	3	0.76%
Children on 8 drugs	1	0.25%	0	0.00%	1	0.25%

Psychotropic Drugs	(Dispensed August to October 2013)	%	DIFF	% DIFF	(Dispensed August to October 2014)	%	DIFF	% DIFF
Total Children in File	<b>259</b>		-259		<b>202</b>		57	
Children on 1 drug	125	48.26%	-125	-48.26%	86	42.57%	39	5.69%
Children on 2 drugs	80	30.89%	-80	-30.89%	74	36.63%	6	-5.75%
Children on 3 drugs	36	13.90%	-36	-13.90%	40	19.80%	-4	-5.90%
Children on 4 drugs	16	6.18%	-16	-6.18%	2	0.99%	14	5.19%
Children on 5 drugs	1	0.39%	-1	-0.39%	0	0.00%	1	0.39%
Children on 6 drugs	1	0.39%	-1	-0.39%	0	0.00%	1	0.39%
Children on 7 drugs	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Children on 8 drugs	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

Psychotropic Drugs	(Dispensed August to October 2015)	%	DIFF	% DIFF
Total Children in File	<b>221</b>		-19	
Children on 1 drug	111	50.23%	-25	-7.65%
Children on 2 drugs	71	32.13%	3	4.51%
Children on 3 drugs	26	11.76%	14	8.04%
Children on 4 drugs	10	4.52%	-8	-3.53%
Children on 5 drugs	2	0.90%	-2	-0.90%
Children on 6 drugs	1	0.45%	-1	-0.45%
Children on 7 drugs	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Children on 8 drugs	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

Psychotropic Drugs	(Dispensed August to October 2016)	%	DIFF	% DIFF
Total Children in File	<b>217</b>		4	
Children on 1 drug	122	56.22%	-11	-5.99%
Children on 2 drugs	59	27.19%	12	4.94%
Children on 3 drugs	26	11.98%	0	-0.22%
Children on 4 drugs	7	3.23%	3	1.30%
Children on 5 drugs	2	0.92%	0	-0.02%
Children on 6 drugs	1	0.46%	0	-0.01%
Children on 7 drugs	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Children on 8 drugs	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

Psychotropic Drugs	(Dispensed August to October 2017)	%	DIFF	% DIFF
Total Children in File	<b>245</b>		-28	
Children on 1 drug	132	53.88%	-10	2.34%
Children on 2 drugs	69	28.16%	-10	-0.97%
Children on 3 drugs	32	13.06%	-6	-1.08%
Children on 4 drugs	10	4.08%	-3	-0.86%
Children on 5 drugs	1	0.41%	1	0.51%
Children on 6 drugs	1	0.41%	0	0.05%
Children on 7 drugs	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Children on 8 drugs	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

### 2019 Update:

Comparison of data from 2016 to 2017 shows an increase of 10 children on 1 psychotropic medication, and an increase of 10 children prescribed 2 medications. This may be reflective of the additional youth in state custody. There were slight increases in the other categories as noted in the graph. This report shows an increase of 28 children overall that have been prescribed psychotropic medications. It should be noted the number of children in state custody in October 2016 (1,435) compared to October 2017(1,568) increased by 133 children.

The three primary psychotropic drugs prescribed for youth in CPS custody continue to be:

- 1). Intuniv ER – (guanfacine) prescribed to treat ADHD in children who are at least 6 years old.
- 2). Fluoxetine HCL – prescribed to treat chemicals in the brain that may become unbalanced and cause depression, panic, anxiety, and obsessive compulsive symptoms,
- 3). Vyvanse – a central nervous system stimulant, it is prescribed to treat chemicals in the brain and nerves that contribute to hyperactivity and impulse control in adults and children who are at least 6 years old. (2016 Trazadone is 3<sup>rd</sup> on the list – prescribed to treat depression/anxiety.

Strategy 4: Implement a process to consult with the State Review Team to assess treatment options for the health and well-being of youth to determine the most appropriate treatment plan.

Action Steps:

- Protocol has been established for referral of children to the Peer Review Organization (PRO) to obtain second reviews regarding treatment options by the end of August 2014.

**2019 Update:**

There has been no change in providers since the last reporting period. During SFY 2018, the Residential/Group Care Program Specialist had 36 contacts with the Peer Review Organization, which includes a child psychiatrist and a psychiatric nurse, about psychotropic prescriptions. The majority of the contacts were information seeking and staff seeking reassurance for safety especially for younger children and those on more than 1 medication. The Peer Review Organization did not oppose any of the prescriptions, but offered suggestion of what other medication options should be tried first.

Goal 2: Children in the custody of the Department of Social Services will receive trauma-informed care identified through a screening process.

Objective A: Complete research of trauma screening tools by getting feedback from the field staff and implement the use of the tool.

Strategy 1: Further developing and supporting frequent collaborations with the Division of Community Behavioral Health to assist in selection of trauma screening tool.

Action Steps:

- CPS developed and implemented the Childhood Trauma Screening Tool in October 2015.

**2019 Update:**

Of the 115 cases reviewed in 2018, over 90% of the cases had evidence of completion of a Trauma Screen.

A decision was made by the CPS Management Team to replace the Childhood Trauma Assessment Tool with the nationally recognized ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) rating scale. The CPS Management Team based this decision on the efficiency of the scale to improve utilization and to ensure trauma screening is occurring. CPS staff also spoke with stakeholders

and many service providers currently using the ACE. This will help maintain consistency to meet the child's treatment needs among those working with children in the child welfare system.

Training for staff on the ACE was completed at the same time training was provided on the Informed Consent form during SFY 2018. The feedback from field staff has been positive about the simplicity of the form.

Objective B: Comprehensive information regarding a child's medical history is utilized to assure quality service and care.

Strategy 1: Implement new FACIS Health Assessment screens.

The health screens are operational. Utilization of FACIS Health Assessment screens are assessed through case reviews by the Residential/Group Care Program Specialist, which began in August 2016, and through Safety, Permanency and Well-Being Office Reviews.

### **2019 Update:**

The review of the 115 cases revealed the Health Assessment Screens are being utilized. Exams, medical appointments, most recent evaluations and pharmacy claims were found in the screens. Proper assessment of trauma by using the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) was completed during the Initial Family Assessment. Depending on the level of trauma events, children were referred to trauma treatment providers or general mental health clinicians.

### **2019 Addition**

Goal 3: Children in the custody of The Department of Social Services will have procedures and protocols established to ensure children in foster care are not inappropriately diagnosed with mental illness, other emotional or behavioral disorders, medically fragile conditions, or developmental disabilities and placed in settings that are not foster family homes as a result of an inappropriate diagnosis.

Objective A: To prevent misdiagnosis of children causing them to be placed in a setting other than a family foster home.

Strategy 1: Implement procedure for review of children referred to a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF).

Child's case is reviewed by the State Review Team (SRT). The SRT is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Social Services, Corrections, Human Services and Education. The SRT meets weekly to review and discuss each referral. Each member has the opportunity to review the child's case information which includes mental health evaluations and progress in therapy, ask questions, and discuss alternatives to PRTF placement. If the recommendation is for a PRTF level of care, the case is referred on to the Peer Review Organization (PRO) for a review to determine the medical necessity of placement in a PRTF.

NOTE: DSS Medical Services contracts with the Peer Review Organization (PRO), South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care to serve as the certification team.

Strategy 2: Procedure for children referred to a Group Care Center for Minors

The Residential/Group Care Program Specialist reviews all referrals of youth to group care centers with the child's Family Services Specialist to determine appropriateness of placement. Case information reviewed includes the severity of the behavior, what has happened in the foster home that resulted in a referral to group care, availability of other foster family resources,

level of supervision required, mental health or substance evaluations and progress in out-patient treatment, and alternatives to group care. Progress in the group care facility is monitored to plan for discharge and transition to a foster home or an Independent Living Program.

### Strategy 3: Procedure for Developmental Disabilities and Medically Fragile Children

Department of Social Services works closely with Department of Human Services with children who meet criteria for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Community support providers are consulted to find the least restrictive setting for the youth based on services needed. Medically fragile youth are transitioned to foster homes able to provide the services needed. These youth may be in a hospital setting until a family is identified that can best meet the individual needs of the child.

It is not common for misdiagnosis to occur in South Dakota. All diagnosis are given after evaluation from a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) and in many cases a Child Psychiatrist. If there are concerns related to a QMHP diagnosis, a second opinion from a Child Psychiatrist can be requested.

## **IX. ICWA AND COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH THE TRIBES**

### **2019 Progress Update**

#### **Foundation**

The Department of Social Services-Division of Child Protection (CPS) continues to emphasize compliance by CPS staff with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The new ICWA Regulations were incorporated into the ICWA Chapter of the CPS Policy and Procedures Manual in January 2017.

If the Family Services Specialist (FSS) has reason to believe a child who comes into court custody may be affiliated with a tribe, the child is treated as an "Indian Child" for purposes of ICWA to exploring potential placements for the child, including contacting tribes in which the child may be affiliated. Currently in CPS policy and procedure, when custody is awarded, the Family Services Specialist (FSS) handling the case will provide a courtesy notice to the tribe(s) the child(ren) is thought to be affiliated with. This courtesy notice provides identifying information about the family involved in the case and the time of the 48-Hour Hearing or temporary custody hearing if known. This courtesy notice is in letter form and can be found in the agency's FACIS Document Index and the CPS Policy and Procedures Manual has a template for email delivery or facsimile to the tribal ICWA office. After the temporary custody hearing, the State's Attorney will provide legal notice as per ICWA Regulations. The DSS website contains a list of ICWA Directors and Designated Tribal Agents to assist field offices in contacting the tribal ICWA Programs. Through consultation with the tribes at the November 2017 meeting, it was suggested CPS send the enrollment inquiries to the ICWA Programs instead of the enrollment offices because they may be able to provide a more timely response to tribal affiliation and enrollment inquiries as many of them have enrollment books. If they don't have an enrollment books, they will send inquires to the enrollment office. CPS is in the process of changing the procedures for this area to help the ICWA Programs manage their cases.

Active Efforts are required from the moment the possibility of removal arises and continues in all phases of case management for ICWA cases. When a Referral For Service (RFS) is assigned and a FSS responds to a possible emergency removal situation, the search for relatives or other potential caregivers known to the child is conducted in order to implement a Present Danger Plan (PDP) to keep the child(ren) safe while CPS completes the Initial Family Assessment to prevent the necessity of obtaining custody of the child. This is the least restrictive placement and one which the child(ren) are most comfortable with. If court custody is necessary to keep the child safe, active efforts continue through a wide range of activities and services to help the family in the reunification process. A few examples of such active efforts are: (Does not reflect all the services provided by CPS)

- Transportation assistance for parents and child(ren) to visits, educational appointments, medical appointments, counseling appointments or other case related appointments,
- Assisting with child care expenses,
- Housing assistance by helping with the application process and in some cases having an Social Services Aide help the parent move in,
- Helping with 24/7 Program costs,
- Helping with supervised visitation services at visitation centers, prisons/jails, parks or wherever works best for the family.

- Helping with sibling visitation if separated,
- Medical, dental, and vision services for all children,
- Mental health or chemical dependency services for parents or child(ren) if needed,
- Kinship locator services,
- Helping with cell phone cards or stamped envelopes.

Placement preferences under ICWA outline the preferred order of placement for an Indian child(ren). South Dakota also has a Relative Placement statute which gives “placement preference to a relative or custodian who is available and who has been determined by CPS to be qualified provided that placement with the relative or custodian is in the best interest of the child.” SDCL 26-7A-19 & SDCL 26-7A-19.1 (See complete laws referenced at the end of this section). Demonstration of active efforts in this area means CPS is searching for a relative or custodian before custody is ordered through the use of Present Danger Plans (PDP). The last resort is to seek custody and place a child into foster care and even then CPS diligently searches for a foster care setting which falls within placement preferences. These efforts are clearly documented in the ICWA Affidavit form which was revised and released statewide to CPS offices on January 17, 2017. The new affidavit includes information on a number of points regarding an ICWA case and incorporates the new ICWA regulations. The diligent search for relatives is an ongoing effort as some relatives are not able to maintain the placement, so even if the placement preferences are met at removal, relative search letters are sent out to begin the process of identifying other potential relatives as part of the concurrent planning process, permanency planning, and to assist in maintaining important connections.

CPS works with the tribes by not only providing courtesy notices, but also in compliance with ICWA, when a intervention takes place, CPS works with the State’s Attorney to follow local protocol regarding the provision of discovery to the parties. When the tribe files for a Motion to Transfer, CPS follows a Transfer Protocol developed in 2005 as a result of a collaborative effort between CPS and representatives from the tribes. This protocol ensures there is a structured and consistent process for the transfer of responsibility for placement and care of a child(ren) from state to tribal custody, along with pertinent case information. The protocol was revised again in 2015 and separated the checklist into two sections; one for Exclusive Jurisdiction Transfers and one for Non-Exclusive Transfers.

The ICWA Program Specialist is involved in the procurement of Qualified Expert Witnesses (QEW) for abuse and neglect cases in state court. A list is maintained and shared with Unified Judicial System which hosts it on their website:

[http://ujs.sd.gov/uploads/docs/Qualified\\_Expert\\_Witness\\_Listing.pdf](http://ujs.sd.gov/uploads/docs/Qualified_Expert_Witness_Listing.pdf)

This list is updated through collaboration with tribal ICWA Programs. The tribes hosted QEW training in September of 2016, which added 10 trained tribal members to the existing list. The ICWA Coalition of Sioux Tribes, or ICWA Coalition for short, has been approached about providing training to fill the training gap. The ICWA Coalition contacted the Native American Training Institute or NATI to provide this training. The ICWA Program Specialist was contacted by Jessi Leneough from NATI in July of 2017 to assist in the creation of this training as it was a new training program for them. The ICWA Program Specialist contacted Jessi in April of 2018 for an update and she reported she is still working on the training, but the real issue they are facing is recruitment. She plans on completing the training by July 2018, but with the changes in ICWA, the role of the QEW is more involved now and finding people willing to do this is becoming a challenge in her experience which lines up with what South

Dakota is currently faced with. This will continue to be a topic of discussion in future State-Tribal meetings.

## **Training**

The changes within the new ICWA Regulations have been incorporated into the ICWA Chapter of the CPS Policy and Procedures Manual and released within the department on March 14, 2017. The ICWA Compliance Desk Guide was also revised with the new ICWA Regulations and released statewide to CPS staff on January 31, 2017. There has been sufficient time to pass that these new changes can be incorporated into the daily practice of CPS field offices. One such example is the revised ICWA Affidavit which was released on January 11, 2017. With the new format, a wealth of ICWA compliance data is captured in this one document to show what CPS has done to prevent the removal of the child(ren) and court custody. Training related to the ICWA Affidavit occurred and ICWA compliance reviews have shown it is being used. This all falls in line with compliance with the new ICWA Regulations.

The Division of Legal Services also continues to be a resource for CPS and State's Attorneys who have questions about ICWA. An attorney with the Division of Legal Services provides a one day training during Foundation Training titled "Child Protection Services - the Legal Process" The ICWA Regulations were incorporated into the training. Since the last APSR update, four trainings, have reached 43 new FSS/Social Services Aide's. ICWA information provided to participants includes:

- ICWA Background
- Application
- Jurisdiction-State vs. Tribal
- Notice Requirements
- Right to Intervene
- Motion-Transfer Concurrent Jurisdiction
- ICWA Exercise Activities
- Active Efforts
- Qualified Expert Witness – QEW
- Placement Preferences
- Voluntary and Termination of Parental Rights
- Failed Adoptions of Indian Children

To illustrate one example of the above bullet points, information about active efforts are not only discussed, but case scenarios are used to show how to apply it in case management and also how to document it in the case record and court report. There are sixteen PowerPoint slides devoted to Active Efforts in the Division of Legal Services presentation. The documentation of Active Efforts is also discussed in the "Guide for Court Reports and Recommendations", which is a FACIS template available to all CPS staff to provide guidance when writing court reports.

During Foundation Training, the ICWA Program Specialist delivers training on cultural awareness for all new staff which emphasizes the importance of Indian children staying connected to their extended families, culture and community. This training is vital to carry out the spirit of ICWA because it gives new Family Services Specialists (FSS), Social Service Aides (SSA) and Family Service Specialists Supervisors (FSSS) an opportunity to learn about the culture, the impact of historical events and

poverty on Indian families today, as well as how to work with Indian families. Even though it is not a ICWA training, the skills being taught help new staff with little experience working with Indian families to actively engage Indian families and provide the best possible service to help achieve reunification and when reunification is not possible, to achieve another identified permanency goal.

The ICWA Program Specialist has also delivered Cultural Connections presentations designed specifically for foster parents. The goal was to provide non-Indian foster parents with information about Native American culture so they can better care for Native American children placed in their home. The two hour training counted towards the six hours of required foster parent training for license renewal. This presentation was provided to four of the seven CPS regions through their local Foster Parent Associations. There were approximately 15 people at each of the five training sessions. The dates and regions where training was provided are as follows:

- June 19, 2017 - Mitchell Area Foster Parent Association (Region 7)
- September 11, 2017 - Huron Area Foster Parent Association (Region 5)
- September 12, 2017 - Watertown Area Foster Parent Association (Region 5)
- September 14, 2017 - Spearfish Area Foster Parent Association (Region 2)
- October 2, 2017 - Rapid City Area Foster Parent Association (Region 1)

A recommendation from the State-Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Workgroup is to have a joint state-tribal presentation with the ICWA Program Specialist, a CPS staff member and an ICWA Director for future trainings. This will be discussed more in detail for potential future trainings.

## **ICWA Compliance**

### **ICWA Compliance Overview -Transfers**

CPS provides a monthly report to the ICWA Directors which lists by tribal affiliation, all Native American children in CPS state custody. This report not only captures tribal affiliation, but also reports the Name, Client ID, D.O.B., Age, Race, Sex, and Initial Placement, Months in Care, Level of Care, Permanent Plan, Last Hearing, Hearing Date, Office and Specialist assigned for each child. The report is generated from the previous month's data concerning Native American children in CPS custody. The ICWA Program Specialist uses this FACIS report to help determine the children whose tribal affiliation is listed as "Unknown" to identify their tribal affiliation and have them properly listed on the FACIS report so their names can be added to the correct tribe's report. Occasionally, children will be listed on the "None" section which is an error when a FSS lists a child as having no tribal affiliation and lists their race as Indian. The ICWA Program Specialist will contact the FSS in these cases because they are not ICWA. The oversight of this monthly report also helps with ICWA compliance by correctly identifying Indian children and their tribal affiliation. Occasionally, the ICWA Program Specialist will receive feedback from a tribal ICWA Program that clients are either not listed or determined to not be eligible for membership in that tribe. When this happens, the ICWA Program Specialist will update the FSS assigned to the case and ask the tribal affiliation change be noted on FACIS. One problem with the report is FACIS is not capable of capturing a client which is eligible for membership into two tribes. When both tribes intervene, which often happens, then one tribe will not receive the child's information on the ICWA Director Report. This is an area being looked at as the new AFCARS changes are currently discussed for implementation which includes 65 new ICWA elements which the states are being asked to capture.

CPS also provides a monthly FACIS report to the tribal court judges of children under tribal court jurisdiction who have been in CPS care between six and twelve months and twelve months or more. These reports include the following information; Name, Client ID, D.O.B., Age, Race, Sex, Initial Placement, Month in Care, Level of Care, Permanent Plan, Last Hearing, Judge, Hearing Date, Docket Number and Circuit Court or Tribal Court Name for each child.

CPS policy requires staff to make the first initial contact with tribes related to ICWA when a child is placed in care and include in court reports for each hearing contacts made by CPS staff with tribal representatives related to ICWA. The DSS Website includes a section on ICWA. The website includes the list of Designated Tribal Agents (DTA) by Tribe, the list of ICWA Directors by Tribe, a tribal court directory for use by CPS staff and States Attorneys, and a link to the ICWA Regulations. The ICWA Program Specialist oversees this section of the website and will provide changes to the website administrator as they occur. Eight of the nine tribes have listed a DTA on the website and the ICWA Program Specialist has made efforts to work with the ninth tribe, which included contacting the Tribal President without success.

In State Fiscal Year 2018 (as of 06/11/2018), 118 children were transferred from state court custody to their respective tribes. CPS continues to implement the "Transfer Protocol for an Indian Child from the State to Tribe" when a child is transferred. The protocol was developed jointly between DSS and the ICWA Directors. The protocol was revised jointly at the March 4-5, 2015 State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation (STCWC) meeting and incorporated into the CPS Policy and Procedures Manual in June 2015. This checklist was revised again in January of 2017 and separated the checklist into two different sections, the first section addressed Exclusive Jurisdiction transfers and the second section addresses Non Exclusive Jurisdiction transfers. This change was discussed with the tribes during the April 2017 State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation meeting. It was discussed again at the November 2017 meeting, with the tribes discussing at what point the tribe would file for a transfer as some do this anytime and some wait until adjudication.

#### ICWA Compliance Overview - Affidavits

CPS completes an ICWA Affidavit for the 48-hour hearing. DSS-CPS made the decision to use only one ICWA Affidavit form statewide where previously there were three different formats used within the DSS-CPS. The new affidavit was released by the CPS Division Director on January 11, 2017 to the DSS-CPS Management Team with a directive to implement with supervisors and field staff for immediate use. The new affidavit includes information on a number of points regarding an ICWA case and incorporates the new ICWA Regulations. Through ICWA Compliance Desk Reviews completed by the ICWA Program Specialist, the findings suggest all regions are using the new affidavit, but there is some inconsistency in the way it is written as some offices have heavy ICWA caseloads compared to some offices which have very few ICWA cases. The offices with more ICWA cases are more thorough with their ICWA Affidavits. This will be an area of training by the ICWA Program Specialist as findings from the reviews are shared with supervisors and staff. Areas covered in the ICWA Affidavit include the following:

- The date CPS noticed the tribe when removal occurred and custody was granted;
  - Place of residence at time of removal;
  - Birth mother and father information including Tribal affiliation and eligibility status of children, if known;
  - CPS active efforts provided to prevent the removal;

- Temporary custody by CPS is necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child(ren);
- The facts that warrant continued separation of the child(ren) from their parents or custodians to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child(ren);
- CPS active efforts to comply with placement preferences and reason for being unable to complying with them, if that is the case;
- CPS active efforts provided to rehabilitate and reunite the family and to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian Family

### ICWA Compliance Reviews

The ICWA Program Specialist conducts ICWA compliance case reviews. The data reviewed comes from the ICWA Director's Report which is generated monthly of all children identified on their demographics as being American Indian/Alaskan Native. Their tribal affiliation can either be of a federally recognized tribe or an unknown tribal affiliation. The ICWA Program Specialist regularly reviews the children on the unknown section if they have been there for more than four months to help identify the tribal affiliation and provide recommendations to the FSS assigned to the case. Another area reviewed is the "None" section of the report. Any child(ren) in this section would be an error as the tribal affiliation is being reported as None, but the demographics report the child as Native American. The ICWA Program Specialist will look into each of these cases and provide feedback to the FSS so this is corrected in the proper way. This report is analyzed more in depth four times per year as part of the ICWA Compliance Desk Review process. The months selected for reviews include July, October, January and April.

For the quarterly reviews, 32 children who have been in care less than eight months are randomly selected by the ICWA Program Specialist. At this juncture in the case, the adjudication process is usually complete and there are sufficient documents on File Director and FACIS to complete an accurate assessment for ICWA compliance. If documents are missing from the two databases, the ICWA Program Specialist emails the FSS assigned and ask for the documents. Most often, the document missing is the ICWA Affidavit used at the 48 Hour hearing. The review tool also looks at court reports to see if active efforts have been made to achieve the permanent plan, which in most cases is reunification. A higher number of cases are reviewed from the offices with a higher caseload of Native American children which are Pennington and Minnehaha County. The following information provides data related to ICWA compliance:

- Present Danger Plan\*
- Reasons for placement
- Court Circuit
- Initial Placement type
- Diligent efforts to meet ICWA Placement Preferences
- Relative search efforts as listed in the court report
- DSS initial date of notice
- State's Attorney initial date of notice
- Intervention/Transfer motions made
- Transfers made
- Permanency goal
- Sibling placed together
- ICWA Affidavit used at 48 hearing
  - Finding Determination of Physical Damage or Harm to the child

- Finding Preventive Measures to Rehabilitate the Family

\*The Present Danger Plan (PDP) is an immediate, short term plan to keep the child(ren) safe when they have been identified as being in danger because of the actions of their caretaker(s). It is an alternative to court custody and placing children in foster care. This plan is developed in cooperation with the child(ren)'s parents or caretakers.

If compliance issues are found, the ICWA Program Specialist communicates with staff to point out the issue and advise correction according to the CPS Policy and Procedures Manual. Here is an example of an issue found in the January 2018 review with one particular office and the remedy:

- The FSS assigned to the case was giving notice to the tribe as the State's Attorney Office (SAO) was only giving legal notice to other parties involved. The format the FSS was using was not a legal format but more a letter with the hearing information. The ICWA Program Specialist emailed the Supervisor and Regional Manager as this did not meet ICWA compliance under 25 CFR 23.111. The Supervisor stated she would contact the SAO and have this corrected immediately.

Also, general feedback from these reviews is provided in the ICWA Program Specialist's monthly report.

Strengths and opportunities for development are as follows:

Strengths:

- An affirmation that overall the new ICWA Affidavits are being used correctly with consistency at the 48 hour hearing and how this one document is a wealth of ICWA compliance information.
- An affirmation that overall, CPS is doing a good job of giving a first initial courtesy contact to the tribes when children come into custody. As a result of this, a high percentage of tribes intervene early on based on this communication. This is not the first legal notice according to ICWA but an informal notice which happens right away.
- Since the new ICWA Regulation was released, the reviews show State's Attorney Offices are also noticing the tribes earlier than they did before with the first legal notice as per ICWA.
- The PDP is the first active effort to try and keep the family unified, but the reviews show this is not always possible for due to the following reasons: parent uncooperative, unable due to level of intoxication, incarceration, and lack of appropriate caretakers.
- The tribes are intervening consistently for over half of the random sampling of case.
- DSS is providing Active Efforts for ICWA cases and this is captured in the court report, which lists all the active efforts the worker has provided. With the offices which handle more ICWA cases, the list is longer, because they not only have bullets but sub-bullets with actual dates the service was done. This is an opportunity for development.
- DSS is completing relative search consistently for the cases which are reviewed and this too is captured in the court report. Here again, the offices which handle more ICWA cases do a more thorough job of capturing this data as they not only have bullets for each relative contact, but sub-bullets with dates of contact and a short summary.
- When placement preferences are met at removal, the placement, a majority of the time, is with relatives and reflects the work up front by the FSS to find appropriate relatives for placement when custody is awarded.

#### Areas of Opportunities:

- Scanning documents into File Director is one area of inconsistency as this is one of the issues with not being able to find the ICWA Affidavit or Legal Notices from SAO offices. As best practice, one office in particular which has a high caseload of ICWA cases, trains their secretaries to scan multiple legal documents pertaining to that one hearing into one folder. So for an emergency removal all the documents pertaining to which are in one or two folders instead of multiple folders. This organizational practice makes it easier to review cases.
- Tribes are transferring cases, but the low numbers in the reviews may not be an accurate assessment due to cases being closed out eventually and coming off of the report which is used to generate the sample. The cases which are captured show a transfer have not been closed yet, but the child(ren) have been discharged from placement for "Transfer-Other Agency-Tribal". This would more accurately be captured in the proposed AFCARS data elements for ICWA.
- Placement preferences are not being met due to a lack of appropriate Native American resources as defined by ICWA. There is a shortage of Native American foster homes and the ICWA Placement Recruitment Project aka South Dakota Native Foster Care is addressing recruitment and retention of placement resources.

#### ICWA Compliance Review Data

Review Month	DSS Notice to the Tribe*	Intervention By Tribe	Transfer By Tribe
July 2017	32	18	Yes-0 No-32
October 2017	32	23	Yes-2 No-30
January 2018	30	21	Yes-1 No-31
April 2018	32	22	Yes-1 No-31

\*This column relates to documentation in the record of notice provided by DSS/CPS.

#### Placement Preference

Review Month	Met At Removal	Met At Subsequent Placement	Child Needing Treatment*	No Available Native American Resource
July 2017	8	1	4	19
October 2017	13	3	3	12**
January 2018	14	2	6	10
April 2018	8	7	4	13

\*This column includes situations where children required a treatment placement setting; Group Care, Specialized Foster Care, Residential Treatment, Family Treatment Home Care.

\*\* One case the parent objected to ICWA Protections the number is not included.

### Diligent Relative Search - Active Efforts

Review Month	Relative Search Documented	Active Efforts Documented
July 2017	31	32
October 2017	30	32
January 2018	29	31
April 2018	30	31

### ICWA Affidavits

Review Month	Was it done at the 48 Hour Hearing?	ICWA Not Determined by Court at 48 Hour Hearing.	Was the 1922 standard of eminent physical damage or harm utilized?	Was the 1912 standard of preventive measures utilized?	Was Information contained in the document sufficient?
July 2017	Yes-30 No-1	Yes-1 No-31	Yes-31 No-1	Yes-30 No-2	Yes-30 No-2
October 2017	Yes-31 No-1	Yes-0 No-32	Yes-32 No-0	Yes-32 No-0	Yes-32 No-0
January 2018	Yes-28 No-4	Yes-1 No-31	Yes-28 No-4	Yes-26 No-6	Yes-26 No-6
April 2018	Yes-23 No-9	Yes-2 No-30	Yes-24 No-8	Yes-24 No-8	Yes-24 No-8

These data elements were tabulated from reviewing court reports over the life of the case. The ICWA Program Specialist began tracking Active Efforts in the August 2015 ICWA Compliance Desk Review.

### Collaboration

#### State-Tribal Title IV-E Agreements and AFCARS

As part of the State-Tribal Title IV-E Agreement between DSS, the four tribes in South Dakota who have agreements (Oglala Sioux Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe) are required to enter and update specific case data in FACIS for all children who are determined to be Title IV-E eligible and under the placement, care and responsibility of the tribal child welfare agency/court. The following data elements must be kept current in FACIS:

- Caseworker Visits (Goal of 95% or higher is the requirement)
- Case Plan – Goal (Information is shared about the use of APPLA as it applies to Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act)
- Placements and Discharges within 30 Days
- Payments
- Client Basic – Demographics, Address and Medicaid
- AFCARS Disabilities
- Legal
- Biological Parent Information

- Educational and Health Assessment – Ensuring the documentation of child’s current school, whether child has an IEP/IFSP and all efforts made to maintain the child in the same school.
- Resource Compliance – Resources must have data showing a current license and complete demographics on each resource member.

The ICWA Program Specialist completes a desk review for required data elements on all the children currently eligible for Title IV-E for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate using the “Caseworker Visits Report from Visits Screen” for those tribes. The results of these reviews are captured on an excel spreadsheet showing all the children with open cases who are Title IV-E eligible and they are shared with the staff of the tribal programs to try and bring all areas into compliance. This area is monitored twice yearly as per contract agreements, once as mentioned above and again to see if the areas were brought into compliance as requested. Results of the AFCARS reviews and follow up are provided to the tribal CPS programs through conference calls, emails and on-site visits identifying strengths and areas needing action for AFCARS compliance. The ICWA Program Specialist completed these reviews before onsite visits took place as listed below:

- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe:
  - March 22-23, 2018 planned but 23<sup>rd</sup> was a cancellation due to winter weather. Another trip is planned for May or June. The 22<sup>nd</sup> was devoted to looking at client files. The 23<sup>rd</sup> was going to be for licensing files.
- Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate:
  - March 29-30, 2018 looked at licensing files and some client’s files.

#### APSR and CFSP Collaboration, Consultation and Coordination with South Dakota Tribes

As discussed in the CFSP 2015-2019 under future meetings with Tribes, a workgroup entitled State-Tribal Child Welfare Consultation (STCWC) was formed after a reorganizational meeting on February 27, 2014. The membership expanded to include not only Tribal ICWA Directors, but also Tribal CPS Directors working under a State/Tribal Agreement. The State’s membership includes members of the Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services Management Team which includes the Division Director, Deputy Division Director, 7 Regional Managers, ICWA Program Specialist, Licensing Program Specialist, Foster/Kinship Care Program Specialist and from time to time other Program Specialists depending on the topic and need for expertise. It was decided to hold meetings quarterly with Casey Family Programs as a partner to facilitate bringing key state and tribal decision-makers to the table for discussions and decision-making and to assist with funding.

Every tribe is invited to attend the State-Tribal Child Welfare Consultation meetings on an ongoing basis. When new directors from either ICWA or CPS come on board the ICWA Program Specialist will send an email to them explaining the group’s purpose and include the last minutes/agenda, Strategic Plan and also updates on any future meetings.

The nine ICWA Directors in SD formed a group called the ICWA Coalition and they usually meet before the STCWC meeting and discuss topics which are brought to the attention of the larger group. This helps with attendance at the STCWC since all the tribes are already in one place, which strengthens the process. The ICWA Coalition is led by Jessica Morson, the ICWA Director and Social Services Director of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.

Eddie Screechowl, the Director of the Indian Child Welfare Programs at Casey Family Programs, has been a regular attendee and was helpful in bringing a national perspective of what other states are doing in terms of state/tribal collaboration. His position within Casey Family Programs changed and he has been transferred to another region and the new South Dakota consultant will be Misty Brammer, who will take over duties mid-year of 2018. Misty is the Director of Indian Child Welfare working out of the Denver Casey office.

There have been three meetings of the State-Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Workgroup in SFY18, and the agenda topics for each meeting are created with input from both the state and tribes one month prior to the meetings.

- **September 13-14, 2017 (Pierre, SD)** - The Strategic Plan updated as a standing agenda item and due to its length not all the points can be reviewed. The points which were updated related to foster parent recruitment and retention within the workgroup which was created. There was a training presentation from the Northern Plains Safe Trails Drug Enforcement Task Force. A discussion on the importance of children retaining or learning their tribal identity was brought forth and how this group could help as the consensus was this was an important topic. Another standing agenda item is each agency gives an update of what is going on in their area.
- **November 29, 2017 (Pierre, SD)** Efforts towards foster parent recruitment was the main focus of the Strategic Plan update. There was further discussion on the tribal identity piece with planning for a cultural presenter to come to the next meeting. There was also discussion about the summer camp an Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) group puts on for Native American youth which is a week-long session. A small workgroup was created to explore further. The intervention and transfer protocols were discussed to find out how the various tribes approach this as some wait until adjudication and others anytime for a transfer. This is discussed later in the report under “Outcomes from Consultations”.

There was a discussion on ICWA Transfer Protocols within the various tribes. It was helpful to DSS-CPS to know from the tribes at what point the tribes consider transferring the state cases back to tribal jurisdiction.

- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe - Anytime
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe – Anytime
- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe – Anytime
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe – At adjudication
- Oglala Sioux Tribe – At adjudication
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe – At adjudication
- Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate – At adjudication
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe – Anytime
- Yankton Sioux Tribe – Anytime but primarily after adjudication

There was also a discussion about enrollment inquiries and the tribes were in agreement they needed the following information to make a quality search:

- D.O.B. on both parents
- Paternity affidavit or birth certificate

The discussion related some FSS's are calling the enrollment offices first when the initial call should be to the ICWA Programs as many of them have the ability to access the enrollment book and the ones which don't have good working relationships with the enrollment office. They would like to log it in with their program first before sending to the enrollment office. This is being changed within DSS-CPS Policy and Procedure.

1. Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe – Does not have an enrollment book
  2. Crow Creek Sioux Tribe – Has an enrollment book
  3. Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe – Does not have an enrollment book
  4. Lower Brule Sioux Tribe – Has an enrollment book
  5. Oglala Sioux Tribe – Has an enrollment book
  6. Rosebud Sioux Tribe – Does not have an enrollment book
  7. Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate – Has an enrollment book
  8. Standing Rock Sioux Tribe – Has an enrollment book
  9. Yankton Sioux Tribe – Does not have an enrollment book
- **March 15, 2018 (Pierre, SD)** (Shortened by one day due to winter weather and many of the Regional Managers could not make it due to travel restrictions) There was a planned speaker, Ethleen Two Dogs, but she was unable to attend. The group updated the Operational Plan as some term limits on leadership positions had expired. Only one change was noted, but otherwise the leadership for the group is as follows:
    - Co-leaders - Jessica Morson and Kevin Kanta
    - Meeting Prep - Joseph Ashley
    - Note Taker - Stacy Nemec with Raquel Franklin as back up
    - Timekeeper/Attendance/Travel Vouchers Laurie Pauli-Tarrell with Rebecca Grey Bull as the backup.

Update on the Strategic Plan included discussion about the action step related to the foster parent survey was struck from the plan due to it being a barrier for Native families who don't like to respond to surveys even with incentives. The desired information will be gathered through feedback from the licensing process. This affected action steps from various objectives under Goal 2: Increase Native American Place Resources. One tribe explained some Native American families feel they won't pass the foster care licensing process because they have multiple families in one home which is a cultural behavior for some families. This will be a topic to be explored further in future meetings.

There was discussion on ICWA notice before custody is granted. The tribe's perspective is they would like to know when a tribal family is being served by DSS-CPS through a Present Danger Plan (PDP) because the tribe would like to be able to help Native families with services or support before custody is granted because it seems like things take longer when it reaches this stage. DSS-CPS will be confirming there is agreement amongst all SD tribes at the September 2018 State Tribal Consultation meeting; after confirmation CPS will address by adding a drop box on the PDP form giving the option for parents to give permission for DSS-CPS to notify the tribe's ICWA program by checking the box and signing the form. This would open the communication between the state and the tribes sooner.

The topic of State/Tribal Agreements came up and it was presented to the tribes which do not have a IV-E agreement they could enter into a licensing agreement which would give them the authority to license foster homes on or near their reservations.

The discussion on tribal identity was again revisited with trying to have some sort of camp experience for Native American youth in care. Ideally, each reservation could take this on for their youth, but this is not the reality due to a number of barriers.

- **June 6-7, 2018 (Pierre, SD)** The South Dakota State-Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Workgroup met the afternoon of June 6<sup>th</sup> and the South Dakota ICWA Recruitment Project aka South Dakota Native Foster Care met the morning of June 7<sup>th</sup> in Pierre. A summary of the meetings is as follows:

South Dakota State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Group:

- The members discussed the new format for the meetings with the afternoon for the State-Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Workgroup and the following morning for the South Dakota ICWA Recruitment Project with initial feedback being positive. Many of the tribal attendees attend both meetings and this meeting format would be more efficient in terms of travel and time. Both groups are co-sponsored by Casey Family Programs.
- Discussions during the consultation meeting were focused on the licensing process, which included discussion about training curriculums used which are PRIDE (Parent Resource for Information, Development and Education) and Extending Our Families through Unity (UNITY). The new director at OST-CPS, Arlyn Eastman shared her vision for how their agency was going to approach licensing by establishing an office in Rapid City for the Family Developer.
- There were also discussions on the importance of retaining or teaching of tribal identity for tribal children. The representatives from the tribes shared information about summer camp experiences they knew of from their reservations which are:
  - Children's Healing Camp sponsored by an Oglala Sioux Tribe group being held in the Black Hills on June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at no cost to youth.
  - A Women's Society Camp sponsored by an Oglala Sioux Tribe group being held on June 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> at Bear Butte at no cost to participants.
  - A treaty camp sponsored by an Oglala Sioux Tribe group held on June 25<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> at Bear Butte at no cost to participants.
  - There are a series of Summer Horse Camps on the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST) reservation throughout the summer and more information can be viewed on them at [www.tiwahe.org](http://www.tiwahe.org)
  - There is a group from Yankton Sioux Tribe offering a Women's Ceremony Camp on July 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> in Lake Andes.

- The last QEW training was in September 2016. Currently, there is a training June 12-14, 2018 in Portland, OR some members are planning to attend.
- There was a presentation from Children's Home Society on A.C.E. Resilience and the importance of dealing with past trauma so its negative effects doesn't carry onto into the adult years.

#### South Dakota ICWA Recruitment Project aka South Dakota Native Foster Care:

- The group's main focus was to brainstorm ideas for joint recruitment efforts across the state for the summer season. The group discussed having other smaller projects in addition to the Lakota Nation Invitational (LNI) effort in Rapid City in December, plus having a big event on the eastern side of the state. There was discussion about having a booth at the annual Child Abuse Conference in October at Sioux Falls Convention Center. Small groups were formed by region and the groups were asked to record their ideas and plans for follow up after this meeting. There were many ideas discussed and plans put together with follow ups plans as well. There will be more teleconference calls with the groups and also reaching out to the tribes which were not present. Ideas were discussed on ordering more promotional items and plans are in place to do that again. The group has a new logo which is on their Facebook page "South Dakota Native Foster Care" and will be using the events capability more to get the word out for future recruitment events.

#### **Future Meeting Dates:**

- September 12-13, 2018, Pierre, SD
- December 5-6, 2018, Pierre, SD

The structure of the group has been evolving since its start, but it is the primary process by which DSS-CPS gathers input from the tribes for the APSR and also strengthens collaboration in a format which promotes face to face dialogue with the decision makers in Indian Child Welfare. It is also an opportunity for both the state and tribes to bring forth, not only concerns, but also a teaching forum with either the state or tribes presenting. Examples of topics include the State's Comprehensive Safety Intervention (CSI) model, Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) and Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families federal legislation to name a few. The tribes on the other hand have had teaching opportunities to not only give updates on current practices and services provided by their agencies, but also to promote tribal customs, values and traditions in child rearing practices. The minutes are recorded and distributed to all members of this group. The relationship is mutually beneficial and now that the group has had a number of meetings, a different approach is being utilized. At the March 2016 meeting, the group began development on a "State and Tribal Strategic Plan" to guide the work of the State Tribe Child Welfare Consultation. This plan has created a more formal structure, gives guidance for future meetings and also provides clarity to the group's proposed outcomes. A SWOT Analysis (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) was completed by each member before the March 2016 meeting which helped the necessary dialogue to help begin to shape this plan.

- Updates to this plan are a standing agenda item as this plan was meant to be fluid and changing as a working document. Since it is updated every meeting, a hard copy is printed

for every member for the next meeting as the plan itself is updated on a PowerPoint for everyone to view. What the group has learned is that some of the goals and objectives which were initially agreed upon are not attainable due to various factors and changes happen based on those discussions.

The “State and Tribal Strategic Plan” was discussed at the September 13-14, 2017 meeting and it was decided the plan would be separated into two different plans with one being more of an operational plan which covers policy/procedure and the other being the group’s strategic plan. So with input from the September/November 2017 and the March 2018 meeting, the following changes were made to the Operational Plan and Strategic Plan:

## **Strategic Plan**

### **Goal 1: Ensure meetings are structured, productive and purposeful**

This was separated into an **Operational Plan** which is met as a goal and will be reviewed periodically as needed but otherwise the structure put in place is working. The following positions were created with the expectation for the position to be held for one year and were revised at the March 2018 meeting:

- Co-Leaders: Kevin Kanta – DSS/CPS and Jessica Morson – FSST/ICWA
- Meeting Prep Organizer: Joseph Ashley – DSS/CPS
- Note Taker: Stacy Nemec – DSS/CPS with Raquel Franklin – SRST/ICWA as a back up
- Timekeeper/Attendance/Travel Voucher Organizer: Laurie Pauli-Tarrell – DSS/CPS with Rebecca Grey Bull as back up.

### **Goal 2: Increase Native American placement resources**

- This has been an ongoing focus for the group at every meeting because of the great need for recruiting, licensing, and retaining foster homes, especially Native American foster homes. It is a struggle for both the state and the tribes to accomplish this task. The group has worked on various strategies and events within the ICWA Placement Recruitment Project aka South Dakota Native Foster Care since this workgroup is closely linked to the State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Workgroup due to the crossover of many of its members. One piece which was developed was the process to share foster homes and a protocol was set up to do this. Due to the lack of resource homes, not just Native American resource homes, but homes being at capacity, there is no availability to share homes. Tribes with Title IV-E Agreements are placing children under their jurisdiction in Non-Indian homes due to necessity. The discussions were around having more joint recruitment efforts to increase the amount of Native American foster homes. Barriers discussed were the licensing process and how some Native families feel they won’t pass because they have multiple families living in one home which is common due to the value of extended family in Native American culture. This will be an ongoing topic to discuss licensing standards and how they fit in with culturally sensitive families.
- The use of PRIDE online has been a topic of discussion as a tool to help license foster homes in a more expedient manner. It became evident with all the recruitment efforts

and more families being interested in becoming licensed, barriers were created as the training schedules and class sizes could not accommodate the families interested in foster parenting in a timely manner. PRIDE online addresses this barrier and is also available to the tribes.

- State-Tribal Agreements with tribes who might be interested in the development of an agreement have also been a topic of discussion with the outcome of more focused discussions with the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. The latest development is tribal elections occurred in April 2018 and with almost a completely new council and chairman being elected which takes the negotiation process backwards until the new leadership determines what direction they wish to take.

### **Goal 3: Increase awareness of resources available to the state and tribal child welfare entities**

- There has been much discussion since the last APSR update on creating educational opportunities, for not only the workgroup, but also Native American children in care for both the state and the tribes. The group has attempted to invite cultural speakers by inviting Ethleen Two Dogs, a well-known cultural expert from Oglala Sioux Tribe, but she had to cancel from her commitment at the last minute due to weather which also cancelled the meeting. The group has discussed the importance of maintaining or creating cultural opportunities for Native American youth. These discussions have led to reaching out to the Children's Healing Camp organizers from the Tiospaye Sakowin Education and Healing Center in Porcupine, SD to find out they will only conduct one camp session during the summer of 2018. This camp is focused on helping Native American youth, ages 0-11, who have had trauma, loss and/or grief. This camp originally had multiple sessions when it first began, but lack of funding has reduced it to one session since it operates on donations. They are open to having more sessions to accommodate foster youth, but funding would need to be found. This will be a topic of continued discussion so funding can be located for youth to attend a camp.

The consultation meetings have had representation from all the tribes in South Dakota which is an improvement from the last APSR 2017 update, but some tribes are more consistent participants than the others. Below are the names of the tribes and tribal representatives who participated in at least one consultation meeting in 2017-2018 timeframe for the APSR 2019 update:

1. Gina Ruggieri - Crow Creek Sioux Tribe ICWA Program (new member)
2. Diane Garreau – Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe ICWA Program
3. Melissa Chrans – Yankton Sioux Tribe ICWA Program
4. Shirley Bad Wound – Rosebud Sioux Tribe ICWA Program
5. Kathy Black Bear – Rosebud Sioux Tribe Sicangu Child and Family Services
6. Raquel Franklin – Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's current CPS Director and former ICWA Director
7. Rebecca Grey Bull – Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's current ICWA Director
8. Jera Brouse-Koster – Lower Brule Sioux Tribe ICWA Program
9. Jessica Morson – Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe ICWA/Social Services Program
10. Lorraine Rousseau – Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Child Protection Program's current Director
11. Shirley Blackstone – Oglala Sioux Tribe's ICWA Director
12. Wendy Janis – Oglala Sioux Tribe ICWA

13. Michelle Lau – Oglala Sioux Child Protection Family Developer
14. Jolene Martin – Oglala Sioux Child Protection Supervisor
15. Ida Brown – Yankton Sioux Child Protection Program
16. Elizabeth Little Elk – RST- Sicangu Child and Family Services
17. Arlyn Eastman – OST CPS Director (new member)
18. Darla Black – OST Vice President

Below are the names of the representatives from the Department of Social Services/Division of Child Protection who participated in the consultation meetings in 2017-2018:

1. Virgena Wieseler – Division Director
2. Lisa Fleming – Regional Manager (RM) for Region 1
3. Laurie Pauli-Tarrell – RM for Region 2
4. Marie Kent-Singleton – RM for Region 3
5. Rique Moore-Briggs – RM for Region 4
6. Dawn Johnson – RM for Region 5
7. Vicki Burger – RM for Region 6
8. Kristi Wagner – RM for Region 7
9. Stacy Nemec – Program Specialist
10. Kevin Kanta – Program Specialist
11. Pamela Bennett – Assistant Division Director
12. Merlin Weyer – Assistant Division Director
13. Joseph Ashley – Program Specialist

The consultation group has had tremendous support from Casey Family Programs, represented at every meeting by Eddie Screechowl.

#### South Dakota ICWA Placement Recruitment Project:

There is another State-Tribal workgroup entitled South Dakota ICWA Placement Recruitment Project. The goal of this group is to increase the number of Native American foster homes statewide utilizing resources both within the state and the tribe to accomplish this goal. This workgroup is sponsored by Casey Family Programs and includes both state and tribal representatives. From the state there are licensing workers from DSS-CPS including the Foster Care Licensing Program Specialist and the ICWA Program Specialist. From the tribe, there are ICWA Program Directors, licensing workers, supervisors, and child welfare directors. Eddie Screechowl, the Director of Indian Child Welfare Programs at Casey Family Programs, is a regular attendee and is helpful in bringing a national perspective of what other states are doing in terms of recruitment and retention, as well as facilitating discussions for this group in their meetings. For more information about this group's work, please see the: XVI. Foster and Adoptive Parent, Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention (Systemic Factor) APSR FY19 update.

#### Collaboration and Coordination with the Tribes:

In South Dakota, there are nine tribes and four provide their own Child Protection Services through State-Tribal Agreements. The Agreement Tribes are; Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, and Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe. There are five tribes which utilize responsibility for placement and care through DSS-CPS field offices. The

Non-Agreement Tribes which fall into this category are: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

As part of South Dakota Department of Social Service's Strategic Plan; Goal 3 is to "Foster partnerships to maximize resources for our customers" and under that goal is Objective B: Support Tribal government efforts to administer programs and services and under this objective is Strategy 1 which states "Meet with Tribal representatives about opportunities to administer programs and services".

- DSS-CPS and the Department of Tribal Relations met with representatives from the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe on November 16, 2017 to continue discussions about the tribe entering into a State-Tribal Agreement for Title IV-E purposes. The current template was handed out plus a resource guide from the NRC4Tribes on Title IV-E/Agreements. The consensus was to move forward in pursuing an agreement, but there were some key people missing from the meeting so nothing permanent was decided until more discussion could be held. In attendance were:
  1. Steve Emery, Tribal Relations Secretary
  2. David Reiss, Tribal Relation staff member
  3. Brandon Sazue, Tribal Chairman
  4. Kyle Kirkie, Councilman
  5. Francine Middletent, Councilwoman
  6. Tina Grey Owl, Councilwoman
  7. Roland Hawk, Councilman
  8. Pat Duffy, Agency Superintendent
  9. Leanne DuVall, DSS-CPS Supervisor
  10. Merlin Weyer, DSS-CPS Assistant Division Director
  11. Joseph Ashley, DSS-CPS Program Specialist
  
- DSS-CPS met with representatives from Crow Creek Sioux Tribe on March 13, 2018 to discuss entering into a State Tribal Agreement for IV-E purposes. The IV-E application process, licensing, IV-E Administrative Reimbursements and other processes were discussed and questions answered. There was no commitment due to tribal elections taking place and the possibility of new leadership in May. In attendance were:
  1. Teresa Nieto – Program Director for BIA Social Services
  2. Jesse Abernathy – Case Manager for BIA Social Services
  3. Pat Duffy – Agency Superintendent
  4. Gina Ruggieri – ICWA Director
  5. Jamie Fallis – Councilman
  6. Tina Grey Owl – Councilwoman
  7. Francine Middletent – Councilwoman
  8. Virgena Wieseler – Division Director
  9. Merlin Weyer – Assistant Division Director
  10. Pamela Bennett – Assistant Division Director
  11. Rique Moore-Briggs – Region 4 Regional Manager
  12. Joseph Ashley – ICWA Program Specialist

DSS-CPS contracted with Sicangu Child and Family Services (SCFS) to complete kinship home studies and foster care licensing home studies for children in custody whose relatives live on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in FY13. CPS made 67 kinship home study referrals to Sicangu since the beginning of the contract with the following outcomes:

- 67 referrals
- 44 completed and approved
- 7 denied
- 10 closed prior to completion (either because the study was no longer needed by CPS or the court closed the case)
- 8 families withdrew from the process for personal reasons
- 3 families failed to follow through
- 1 family moved out of the Rosebud area before the study could be initiated
- 2 requests closed prior to completion due to concerns with the safety of the home upon initial contact

CPS also made 51 referrals for home studies for prospective foster families with the following outcomes:

- 51 referrals
- 25 licensed and/or approved
- 11 withdrew
- 15 closed due to lack of follow-through

The state's certification training is open to attendance from all the tribes in SD whether they have an agreement. Since the state's practice models are different than tribal agencies, DSS-CPS asks, if at all possible, tribal supervisors go through the training first to become familiar with what their staff will be bringing back. Since the last APSR update, one tribe has sent a case manager and a supervisor to the IFA training. New tribal case managers continue to go through FACIS Tribal Training as they are hired. The training dates are provided to all tribes.

DSS-CPS is committed through contractual agreements to assist the Agreement Tribes in their day to day operations to better serve the tribal communities which are in their service area. This assistance involves a wide array of collaboration from Program Specialists who are assigned to work with the tribes. On an ongoing basis, the ICWA Program Specialist works with each tribe and DSS-CPS field offices regarding case specific issues which come up from time to time. These issues are addressed with the Family Services Specialist (FSS), Supervisor and Regional Manager. Occasionally, these issues are brought to the attention of the Division Director and resolved at that level.

The ICWA Program Specialist has provided ongoing training on the Cost Allocation Time Study (CATS) which is required once per calendar year quarter for Title IV-E Administrative reimbursements. DSS-Finance changed from using the data based time study system previously used to using one captured on Excel. Training is an ongoing process with new staff hired and is provided either onsite, by phone or email. The ICWA Program Specialist has also provided ongoing assistance in the area of Title IV-E Administrative Reimbursements. He also provides assistance if there are problems to assist DSS Finance in approving the submissions.

Of the Agreement Tribes, Oglala Sioux Tribe and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe present submissions to DSS, so all of the training has been directed towards them since the last APSR update.

The Program Specialists provide technical assistance to foster care providers licensed by the Agreement Tribes in completion and submission of Requests for Payment as well as assistance in meeting the licensing requirements. As part of this process in compliance overview of licensing files is to verify which tribally licensed foster homes have met the requirements of Title IV-E. Working with Family Developers, the Program Specialists provide technical assistance and support to meet the standards. Before a New Resource for Foster Care is approved on FACIS, the Program Specialists ensure all the safety requirements, home studies, and licenses are met. This is completed before any Title IV-E funding is approved for children placed in the new tribally licensed foster homes.

CPS reviews tribal agencies on Title IV-E and AFCARS compliance as part of the agreement as stated in the section titled ICWA Compliance Overview (AFCARS). The agreements state the State agrees to “conduct random sampling for case reviews of eligible Title IV-E children and licensing files receiving Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments twice a year for monitoring of compliance with requirements”. In conjunction with the compliance oversight, the CPS provides technical assistance to the above listed Agreement Tribes on a wide range of subjects. Onsite client and licensing file reviews are done as well as meeting with CPS Directors and staff to review any findings. The ICWA Program Specialist traveled to Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST) CPS located in McLaughlin, SD once since the last APSR to complete these tasks. He also traveled to Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (SWO) once since the last APSR with plans to travel again during the summer of 2018. The Director of the SWO - Child Protection Program has asked for assistance in helping with their client files because they are audited by multiple people for the various funding streams and it is confusing the way they currently are set up. Bad weather cancelled a meeting in Ft. Yates with the SRST - Director of CPS to review Title IV-E cases and licensing files to ensure all Title IV-E requirements were being met, so a another visit is planned for the summer of 2018. Both of these reviews were in conjunction with completed desk reviews of AFCAR data elements which are spelled out in the State-Tribal Agreement. On these trips and through the course of the year since the last APSR update, the ICWA Program Specialist reviewed files and also provided specific training and support to the programs as follows:

- 1) Title IV-E eligibility for initial and redeterminations
- 2) AFCARS requirements related to results of a review which was completed
- 3) Licensing requirements and findings
- 4) State Tribal Agreement
- 5) Caseworker Visits
- 6) FACIS data entry

The ICWA Program Specialist has provided similar training and assistance to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe in previous APSR updates and the agency has had no turnover. This tribe has not had any Title IV-E clients since June of 2016.

CPS has a Program Specialist stationed in Pine Ridge to provide training and support to the Oglala Sioux Tribe Child Protection Program. From time to time, other CPS staff will assist in providing training. Since the last APSR update, there have been training sessions on a wide array of topics. Some of the training is ongoing due to staff turnover. Training topics included:

- 1) Completion of intake reports related to allegations of possible child abuse and neglect
- 2) Investigations of allegations of abuse and neglect

- 3) FACIS data entry
- 4) IV-E initial and ongoing requirements and application
- 5) Guardianship Assistance Program
- 6) Caseworker Visits requirements
- 7) AFCARS
- 8) Auxiliary Placement
- 9) ICPC
- 10) PRTF
- 11) Secondary Trauma
- 12) Medicaid Funding
- 13) Case Planning
- 14) Continuous Quality Improvement
- 15) FACIS User Training

The Program Specialist continues to provide technical assistance in the following areas:

- 1) IV-E Applications
- 2) Foster Care licensing
- 3) Medicaid applications
- 4) Caseworker Visits
- 5) Data entry
- 6) Subsidized Guardianship
- 7) Case Planning
- 8) Intake practices
- 9) Group and Residential placement requirements

A teleconference meeting took place on April 12, 2018 with Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) Child Protection Director Caroline Bettelyoun, her Administrative Assistant, Boyd Looks Twice and DSS-CPS Division Director Virgena Wieseler and Program Specialist Joseph Ashley for the purpose of clarification on contractual items for funding purposes and also an update on how the program is operating with challenges and successes. Caroline has been acting in the director's position but is also involved in other programs so she is trying to streamline the program's efficiency to set up the program for a smooth transition when a new director is hired sometime later this year. Caroline requested a follow up onsite visit from DSS-CPS to show how things have improved since the last visit in June of 2017. On May 7, 2018, Caroline informed the Division Director Arlyn Eastman was hired as the new CPS Director. She will be in attendance at the June 2018 State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation meeting.

DSS-CPS has been available to OST-CPS on a consistent basis in a number of different areas pertaining to the contract and will continue to provide technical assistance as needed.

#### Quality Assurance:

In South Dakota, DSS-CPS provides a statewide Quality Assurance (QA) by utilizing Safety, Permanency and Well-Being Reviews according to policies and procedures set up on an ongoing cycle. Field offices who work within reservation areas work with the Tribal Courts who retain jurisdiction over these cases. These office reviews would cover the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Yankton Sioux Tribe. The tribes which have agreements have reviews which fall under the State-Tribal

Agreements which have been covered already. Refer to the Outcomes Management section XIII for a more thorough explanation of this process.

#### Sharing of the CFSP and APSR:

The state shares its CFSP/APSR with the tribes and the discussions from the consultation group are included in the annual APSR updates. The ICWA Program Specialist mailed copies of the CFSP 2015-2019 and APSR FY 2018 to the tribal members of the State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation group on March 26, 2018. Tribal members were encouraged to provide feedback by the end of May to be included in the FY19 APSR submission which is due June 30, 2018. This sharing of the state's APSR update is done on a yearly basis. One barrier is the lack of sharing of APSR from the tribes with the state and this sharing has been requested before. The report was sent to the following:

- Lorraine Rousseau – SWO-CPP
- Caroline Bettelyoun – OST-CPS
- Jessica Morson – FSST-CPS
- Raquel Franklin – SRST-CPS
- Gina Ruggieri – CCST-ICWA
- Diane Garreau – CRST-ICWA
- Melissa Chrans – YST-ICWA
- Elizabeth Little Elk – RST Sicangu Child and Family Services
- Shirley Bad Wound – RST-ICWA
- Jera Brouse-Koster – LBST-ICWA

#### Collaboration with Tribes Related to the Provision of Independent Living Services (ILS) under the CFCIP:

The ICWA Program Specialist forwards information to every tribe concerning upcoming ILS Regional Workshops and any other ILS related information. A distribution email list was created, which is updated before each mailing. The ICWA Program Specialist is copied on all emails from the ILS Program Specialist when she provides informative ILS emails so tribes can be notified of upcoming events. In addition, the ICWA Program Specialist works with the ILS Program Specialist and Community Resource Person (CRP) in helping with NYTD Survey's being filled out within expected time frames. This could involve contacting the tribes with reminders on the surveys.

At the State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation March 2018 meeting, the ICWA Program Specialist provided and detailed the information contained in folders to the ICWA and Tribal CPS staff which included:

- **Community Resource People (CRP):** The Community Resource People can assist youth from age 15 – 21 with independent living skills (ILS). Attached was a CRP map and referral form. The *CRP Referral* form information can be completed and sent to the ICWA Program Specialist if there is a youth in their area who needs assistance. After the referral form is completed, a CRP will work with the youth on ILS.
- **ILS Workshops:** The Independent Living Workshops information for Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Aberdeen were in the folders. This information was sent by email from the ICWA Program Specialist on February 6, 2018. If there is a youth who would like to

attend the workshop then completion of registration information is required, which would be sent to the CRP. There was also a *Three-Year ILS Workshop Schedule* of the upcoming workshop topics included in the folders.

- **2018 Teen Conference:** The Teen Conference was held June 12-15, 2018 at the School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City. The Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention curriculum was taught, as well as education on healthy relationships, education, employment, housing, culture awareness, and a community health fair was held. There were tours of Crazy Horse and Mount Rushmore. Youth from age 15 - 18 in custody attended.
- **Education and Training Vouchers (ETV):** The Division of Child Protection Services is responsible for administering the ETV funds to eligible youth who have left custody at age 18; adopted at age 16; or in kinship guardianship at age 16. The ETV is designed to assist youth in foster care to achieve success in higher education. The ETV brochure was put in the folder. For more information a link was provided:  
<http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/educationtraining.aspx>
- **National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD):** The first NYTD cohort information gives data of youth at age 17 and follows these same youth at 19 and 21 years of age. The same NYTD survey questions are asked with the youth at these ages.
- **2018 Prevention Resource Guide:** The 2018 Prevention Resource Guide along with the following website <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/> to implement prevention strategies in your community. This website and resource guide will help plan for the Child Abuse Prevention month and learn how to keep children safe and families strong in supportive communities.

To date, no concerns have been raised by the tribes on any of the above programs and the implementation of them across the state.

The following is a list of state statutes and CPS policy which relate to ICWA notice and transfer.

- State Statutes
  - SDCL 26-7A-15 provides the requirement to notice to parents, guardians, custodians and Indian custodians related to temporary custody and scheduled hearings.
  - SDCL 26-7A-15.1 provides the requirements for written notice regarding hearings and other A/N proceedings and what must be in the notice for A & N cases subject to ICWA.
  - SDCL 26-7A-15.2 provides a sample form for written notice.
  - SDCL 26-7A-15.3 provides the ICWA definition of "Designated Tribal Agent" for purposes of notice under ICWA.
  - SDCL 26-8A-33 authorizes the Indian tribe to appear by counsel or authorized representative in any abuse or neglect proceeding involving a child covered by ICWA.
- CPS Policy and Procedure
  - CPS informs ICWA Directors promptly in writing when CPS becomes aware a child is affiliated with a tribe. The following is the format recommended for field staff to use for notice purposes to ICWA Directors:
    - This is notice the following children were placed in (emergency foster care/emergency kinship care) on \_\_\_\_\_:  
Child's Name                      Child's DOB

Their parents are:

DOB If known  
DOB if known

There is reason to believe there may be tribal affiliation with the (Oglala Sioux Tribe/Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe/Rosebud Sioux Tribe/Crow Creek Sioux Tribe/Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe/Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate/Standing Rock Sioux Tribe/Yankton Sioux Tribe).

The 48 Hour Hearing is scheduled for (date) at (time) at (Location).

OR

The 48 Hour Hearing is not yet scheduled. Please contact the (Name of County) County States Attorney's Office (Phone Number) immediately the next business day to check the schedule.

CPS is requesting the assistance of the ICWA Program to help identify and locate relatives for these children. Please consider this email a referral to you or your family locator to begin a search.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Family Services Specialist \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Information (email address, address and phone number) \_\_\_\_\_

If the ICWA Director does not have email, CPS will attempt to call them or send a fax with the information.

If CPS does not know the date or time of the 48 hour hearing at the time the email is sent, CPS will make efforts to notify the ICWA Director as soon as the information is available by phone or email.

The following is a listing of state statutes and CPS policy related to placement preference.

➤ State Statute

- SDCL 26-7A-19 requires placement preference be given to a relative or custodian considered qualified by DSS as a temporary custody option for the court.
- SDCL 26-7A-19.1 requires placement preference be given to a relative or custodian after a temporary custody hearing.
- SDCL 26-7A-19.3 describes the process CPS must use following a contact by a relative regarding their interest in being a temporary or permanent placement resource for a child.

➤ CPS Policy and Procedure

- Good cause hearings are held when the State believes, or any party asserts, good cause exists to not transfer a case to tribal custody. Also, good cause hearings are held when departure from the placement preferences may occur.
- CPS policy describes in detail what constitutes diligent search for relatives, when expedited placement with relatives is allowed, and guidelines for assessing and selecting relative placements.
- CPS policy requires CPS staff to describe in court reports efforts provided to follow placement preference, and when placement preference could not be met, reasons why.

## X. FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT DILIGENT RECRUITMENT PLAN

### **2019 Progress Update**

The following information provides progress updates related to the Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan. The Plan is intended to facilitate recruitment of placement resources to assure there are enough foster and adoptive parents who reflect the diversity of children in care and are able to meet the individual needs of the those children. CPS does not have any policies or practices in place which limit or restrict CPS's ability to recruit foster and adoptive parents who reflect the diversity of children in care.

**Goal:** Children requiring placement outside of their home are placed with placement resources who can meet their cultural, physical, educational, and mental health needs.

**Objective A:** Enhance recruitment plans that were developed with the assistance of National Resource Center for Recruitment and Retention of Foster and Adoptive Parents at AdoptUSKids and the National Resource Center for Tribes to include general, targeted, and child specific recruitment.

**Strategy 1:** Identify the demographics of children in care.

The "Demographics of Children In Alternative Care" report continues to be generated on a quarterly basis and is available in FACIS. Licensing FSS utilize the data when updating their recruitment plans.

As of May 31, 2018

Percentage of Children in Care Statewide by Age Group

Age Group	0-4	5-11	12-15	16-18	19-21
Percentage in Care	37%	38.5%	14.4%	9.8%	.3%
Percentage in Foster Care	56.6%	41.4%	21.3%	14.3%	0%

Percentage of Children in Family Foster Care by Region by Age Group

Region	0-4	5-11	12-15	16-18
1	66.1%	65.6%	44.2%	30.4%
2	53%	60.9%	22.2%	20%
3	76.3%	67.2%	16.7%	29.1%
4	68.1%	58.6%	30.7%	41.6%
5	62.7%	54.6%	44.7%	25%
6	67.1%	49.6%	32.5%	26.9%
7	67.9%	48%	33.4%	33.4%

#### Gender of Children in Care Statewide

Male	Female
51.9%	48.1%

#### Gender of Children in Family Foster Care by Region

Region	Male	Female
1	61.9%	58.8%
2	51.6%	52%
3	56.9%	59.7%
4	67.4%	46.3%
5	44.7%	66.2%
6	49.4%	51.1%
7	59.7%	49.3%

#### Race of Children in Care Statewide

Black	Indian	White	Hispanic	Asian	Hawaiian/Pcf
5.9%	67.2%	26.1%	6.1%	.6%	.2%

#### Race of Children in Care by Region

Region	Asian	Black	Indian	Hawaiian/Pcf	White	Hispanic
1	0%	1.9%	78.1%	.3%	19.7%	5.1%
2	0%	7.4%	25.9%	0%	66.7%	11.1%
3	0%	0%	93.1%	0%	6.9%	4.2%
4	0%	0%	98.2%	0%	1.8%	1.2%
5	4.5%	13.6%	37.3%	0%	44.6%	8.5%
6	0.2%	11.7%	51.6%	0.5%	36%	9.9%
7	0.9%	5.5%	59.1%	0%	35.4%	.8%

#### Tribal Affiliation: Number of Children in Family Foster Care Statewide

Sisseton-Wahpeton	Standing Rock	Crow Creek	Cheyenne River	Lower Brule	Oglala Nation	Rosebud	Flandreau-Santee	Yankton
19	30	41	107	32	102	136	3	57

## Tribal Affiliation: Number of Children in Family Foster Care by Region

Region	Sisseton-Wahpeton	Standing Rock	Crow Creek	Cheyenne River	Lower Brule	Oglala Nation	Rosebud	Flandreau-Santee	Yankton
1	0	7	5	27	3	70	50	0	1
2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	4
3	0	11	0	60	2	7	12	0	0
4	3	2	27	2	19	4	33	0	0
5	7	4	1	7	4	3	4	3	2
6	9	6	8	8	4	16	27	0	20
7	0	0	0	3	0	0	9	0	30

**Strategy 2:** Utilize data regarding demographics of children in care by office to inform and update the population of children requiring targeted recruitment.

The Licensing FSSs and Supervisors meet at least every six months to update the Region's recruitment plans. Meetings may occur more frequently in Regions where there is a greater need for foster parents. The data is used to drive their recruitment efforts.

Licensing staff continue to utilize the data from the Demographics of Children in Care report for their region when discussing the need for foster parents and to update their recruitment plans.

Region 1 sent letters to 75 local churches and Region 2 sent 113 letters. The regions have partnered with several churches to place a message about becoming a foster parent in their bulletins or to arrange informational meetings.

Region 1 has increased their efforts related to child specific recruitment by focusing on locating and licensing kinship homes. The region allocated staff time to finding kinship and assisting them through the licensing process. The region had 54 children in kinship care in May of 2016, 80 in May of 2017, and 91 in May of 2018. The region had 16 licensed kinship families with the referral source of kinship in May of 2016, 24 in May of 2017, and 23 in May of 2018. This number fluctuates frequently due to kinship families closing their license when the adoption of the children in their care is completed.

Region 1 held their second annual art exhibit at the Dahl Fine Arts Center. This year's art theme was "Post Cards from Foster Care". CPS staff provided children with the art supplies and visited several facilities to give children an opportunity to create a post card. There were 21 pieces of art submitted for display during the month of April. A community event was held on April 12<sup>th</sup> with live music and food. Approximately 50 people attended the event. Attendance was lower than expected due to inclement weather. Attendees were asked to vote on their favorite piece of art and the winner was given a large art kit. Here is the link about the event:

[http://dss.sd.gov/keyresources/news/2018/child\\_abuse\\_prevention.aspx](http://dss.sd.gov/keyresources/news/2018/child_abuse_prevention.aspx)

Region 1 partnered with Bethany Christian Services, Children's Home Society, Lutheran Social Services, and Catholic Social Services in Rapid City on May 10, 2018 for an event where attendees could learn about each agency's foster care and adoption

program and the licensing/approval process. There were 12 people who attend and 4 were interested in being contacted about taking the next step in the licensing and adoption process.

Region 2 partnered with America's Kids Belong to recruit families. America's Kids Belong is a 501C3 organization which mobilizes government, faith-based, business and creative leaders around the goal of permanency and belonging for every child. The recruitment targets church members who would like to become foster parents and families who can support the foster families. Services to families include, respite care, transportation, and assisting with family errands. Churches who participate in recruitment share information about becoming a foster parent during services for three weeks and the fourth week they hold a panel during the service. Panel members include children who have transitioned from foster care, current foster parents, a Court Appointed Special Advocate, and a FSS. A panel was held on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 12 families expressed interest in becoming a foster parent.

Region 3 held a booth at Home Town Days in Eagle Butte in July 2017 and in December of 2017 the region held a booth at Santa Land in Mobridge South Dakota. Information about becoming a foster parent was shared with people who visited the booth. There were 2 "Commit Cards" collected from people interested in more information about becoming a foster parent. The region held two recruitment events in Pierre, which were also fundraisers for the local foster parent association. The first event occurred at Perkins on August 10, 2017 and second was at Pizza Ranch on February 7, 2018, with a portion of the proceeds donated to the foster parent association. The region partnered with Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) for an organized walk on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Eagle Butte for foster parent appreciation month. CRST provided bottled water for the event. CPS distributed posters throughout the community. Only a few people attended the event, with one person filling out a "Commit Card".

Region 4 had a booth at the Crow Creek Indian Services Health Fair where information was provided about foster parenting to people who visited the booth. The region did a presentation about becoming a foster parent at the Rotary Club on August 3, 2017. The region provided mandated reporter training for the Lower Brule School and utilized the opportunity to provide information about becoming a foster parent. Staff also handed out information about becoming a foster parent during the Mellette County Frontier Days Parade. In November 2017, a presentation was provided for the Region 4 Economic Assistance staff about becoming a foster parent. Despite these events, no "Commit Cards" were filled out.

Region 5 had a booth on August 1, 2017 at the National Night Out event in Brookings with approximately 125 people attending the event. Two individuals who visited the booth expressed interest in becoming a foster parent. On October 14, 2017, the region partnered with Flandreau Santee Tribe (FST) to have a float in the South Dakota State University (SDSU) Homecoming parade and they handed out candy and recruitment materials. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the region met with the Wind Riders ABATE team to discuss the need for foster parents with approximately 20 people attending the event. The group made a donation for Christmas presents for children in foster care, but there wasn't anyone interested in becoming a foster parent. The region held a booth at the Brookings High School Parent Symposium with visitors to the booth given information about becoming a foster parent. Approximately 80 people attended the event and one person filled out a "Commit Card". The region attended the Million Cups Presentation at South Dakota Children's Museum. CPS shared the need for foster parents in the community. There were approximately 30 people at the presentation and two people took "Commit Cards" with them.

Region 6 has utilized foster parent volunteers to spread the word about the need for foster parents. The licensing FSS's dedicate time during the foster parent's license renewal to talk about the need for foster parents and how the family can help recruit additional foster parents. The region had a booth at the Community Response to Child Abuse Training at the Sioux Falls Convention Center on October 6, 2017. The region had a booth at the Avera McKennan Social Work Conference on October 10, 2017. On January 7, 2018, the region presented information at the Celebrate Church in Sioux Falls, with 6 families interested in receiving more information about the licensing process. The region presented information at the Gloria Dei church in Sioux Falls on January 20 - 21, 2018 and February 10, 2018, with 2 families interested in more information about the licensing process. A booth was set up at the Technology and Innovation in Education Conference on April 16-17, 2018 with information about becoming a foster parent. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 400 runners participating in the Run for Child abuse Prevention were given a brochure with information about becoming a foster parent in their participant bags. The region held their annual foster parent association fund raiser at Texas Road House, which was a success again. About 500 people attended and approximately \$5,000 was raised. People who attended paid \$10 for a pulled pork sandwiches, fries, and a drink. Brochures about becoming a foster parent were placed on the tables for guests to take with them.

Region 7 held a booth on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at The Freedom Church and information about becoming a foster parent was shared. Staff also manned a booth at the Safety Expo at the Mitchell Technical School in October 2017 and provided information about becoming a foster parent. The region held an Open House in Yankton on March 21, 2018.

Each office is required to document all recruitment events in an Excel as a way of measuring the effectiveness of recruitment events and a way to share what other offices are doing for recruitment.

**Strategy 3:** Modify recruitment plan strategies by utilizing data regarding the current pool of available foster families and determining their ability to meet the needs of children identified in Strategy 1.

CPS continues to work on the accuracy of the Licensed Foster Homes by Race report which compiles the total number of families who wish to care for children age 0-4, 5-11, 12-15, 16-18, and whether they are gender specific or not. The current report does not take into consideration families who only provide respite care, are temporarily not accepting children, or families who consider themselves to be at capacity, even though the reports reflects available slots. A FACIS update reflecting if a family is on hold or providing respite care only is on the list of FACIS projects.

The Licensing Program Specialist and Sioux Falls licensing staff reviewed 277 resources in Sioux Falls and identified 45 resources which have been inactive for more than a year. The Sioux Falls licensing staff plans to work with the families to set a goal of taking a placement in the next year. The Licensing Program Specialist will work the licensing staff from the other six regions during the next year to identify inactive homes and either persuade them to take placements or close their license.

**Strategy 4:** Enhance recruitment plans with the use of diligent recruitment efforts to effectively work with diverse populations.

The Diligent Recruitment Peer to Peer network was discontinued on September 30, 2017. The Capacity Building Center for States will provide support to participants in the group going forward. The Licensing Program Specialist was not able to attend the first call, but will attend calls when possible in the future. There has not been a second call scheduled.

**Strategy 5:** Enhance recruitment efforts of Native American foster homes.

The South Dakota Native Foster Care Workgroup returned to Rapid City in December for the Lakota Nation Invitational (LNI) December 12-16, 2017. The group manned two booths, one at the Civic Center and the other at the Ramkota Hotel where a number of events associated with LNI took place. This effort resulted in 60 “Commit to Know More” cards, being completed by visitors to the booths. Those who visited the booths registered for drawings for items donated or provided by Casey Family Programs and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST). Items given away were twenty-five dollar Wal-Mart gift cards (Casey), gift bags (Casey), and a baby and large star quilt (SRST). Two hundred seventy nine tickets for the giveaway were filled out and visitors to the booth were given information about becoming a foster parent. People who filled out a “Commit to Know More” card were given a pizza cutter with the name of the group’s Facebook page on it.

The workgroup hopes people will contact an agency in their area as a result of the numerous people who visited the booths to gather information about becoming a foster parent.

Volunteers included tribal (3) and state (10) child welfare staff. The completed “Commit To Know More” cards were distributed to licensing staff in each of the areas on December 27, 2017 to follow up with people who expressed an interest in learning more about becoming a foster parent. The workgroup followed up with licensing staff to track the progress with each of the contacts. The group reported 3 families who are moving forward with becoming a foster parent.

The South Dakota Native Foster Care group continues to spread the word about the need for foster parents on their Facebook page. Booths or other events held in the regions are added to the Facebook page. The page currently has 831 likes.

This group had a face to face meeting in Pierre on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Participants from each region split into smaller groups and worked on their plans for recruitment in the next year. The groups discussed events in their area where recruitment could occur by handing out flyers or having a booth. The group discussed recruitment materials needed for the activities. Casey Family Programs will purchase the items for the group.

**Strategy 6:** Identify characteristics of children in care.

Information available in FACIS related to characteristics of children in care is limited. CPS continues to have a need for Native American foster families, families who can care for sibling groups, and families willing to care for teens. See Strategy 1 for information on demographics of children in care.

**Objective B:** Improve customer service to prospective foster and adoptive parents who have inquired about foster parenting and adoption.

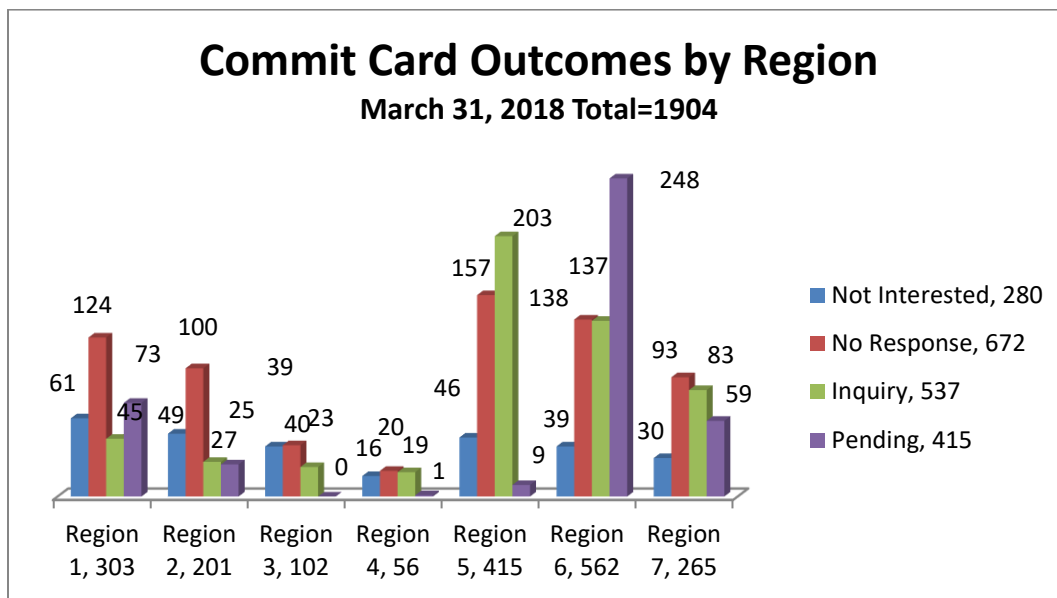
**Strategy:** Identify barriers to becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent and develop interventions to eliminate the barriers identified.

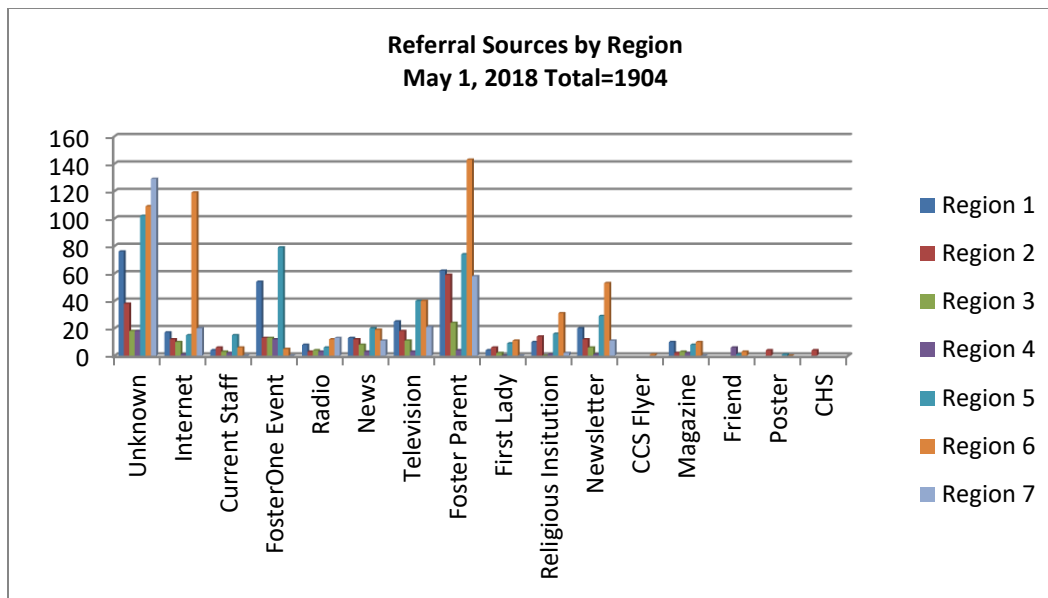
CPS continues to monitor outcomes of the FosterOne campaign. The FosterOne website had 443 new visitors from April 1, 2018 to April 30, 2018. CPS receives Google Analytics for the website each month, but hasn’t received the data for May 2018. Attached below is an example of what is received.



Analytics Report  
20180401-20180430.

Licensing FSS and Supervisors compile FosterOne “Commit to Know More” card outcomes and referral sources quarterly (3/31, 6/30, 9/30, 12/31). The cards contain information on where the person submitting the card heard about FosterOne. If the card does not contain the referral source, it is gathered when contact is made with the person. Referral sources of these cards are the tracking mechanism of the recruitment efforts of each office. Current foster parents continue to be the leading “Commit to Know More” card referral source.





After the prospective foster parent commits to know more and is provided information about becoming a foster parent, they are asked to complete an inquiry. The inquiry process consists of the prospective foster parent providing personal information about their family such as household members, dates of birth, race, and employment. The numbers of inquiry types are tracked in FACIS by office and for the state.

The number of inquiries by type for state fiscal year 2017 is outlined in the following table:

**State Total as of 5/31/17**

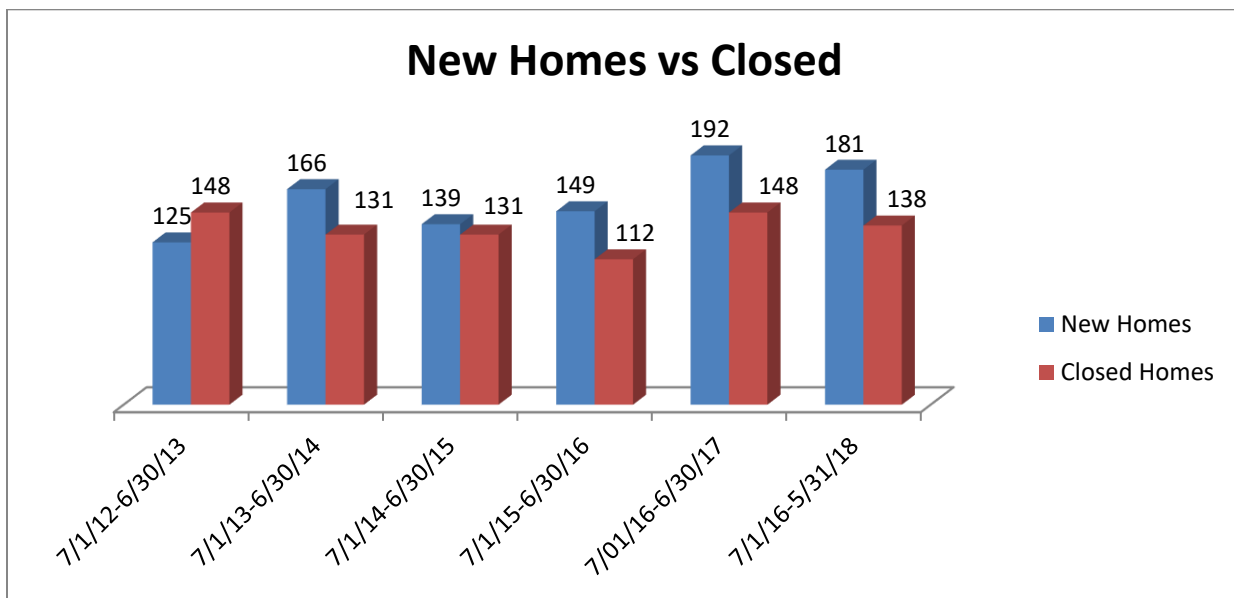
Inquiry Type	Current Inquiries
Adoption	7
Adoption/Foster Care	326
Foster Care	27
ICPC Adoption	1
ICPC Foster Care	10
ICPC Kinship	18
Kinship Care	178
<b>Total</b>	<b>567</b>

**State Total as of 5/31/18**

Inquiry Type	Current Inquiries
Adoption	9
Adoption/Foster Care	271
Foster Care	21
ICPC Adoption	4
ICPC Foster Care	8
ICPC Kinship	9
Kinship Care	137
Total	459

The “Active Inquires” on the “Resource Compliance Report” tab lists the resource name, inquiry date, application date, and the date of the most recent action completed by the Family Services Specialist. The most recent action categories are information material sent, referred to pre-service, scheduled home consultation, and scheduled office visit. This information is used by each office to track inquiries and ensure consistent periodic contact with the family. The tab is also used to track the prospective foster parent’s progress through the licensing process.

Several CPS regions focused on updating their inquiries on FACIS. This effort led to a decrease of 108 less than in May of 2018 who either made the decision to continue the process and become licensed or were removed from the inquiry list.



CPS continues to license more families compared to families who close their license. The top closure reasons continue to be adoption of a child or children and family changes such as divorce or wanting to spend more time with their birth children. CPS had licensed 181 families in SFY 2018.

**Objective C:** Assure the level of Unity training is available to meet the volume of prospective Native American placement resources.

**Strategy 1:** Increase the number of PRIDE trainers.

As of February of 2018, the average length of time for a home study to be completed is 139 days. CPS has seen a decrease in the length of time to complete a home study since the implementation of PRIDE Online. The length of time has not improved dramatically since the increase in contract staff, but CPS anticipates the yearly number of home studies completed to increase. Overall, the time went from 132 days in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to 139 days in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. This was impacted by Regions 1, 2 and 6, where most of the home studies are done across the state. In these regions, there were slower rates of completion. This data will be monitored to determine if it is unique to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. There does seem to be a couple of factors impacting this work. One of these is the very high number of kinship families in PRIDE in Regions 1 and 2, which tend to take longer. The other factor is due to delays in completing background screenings. There have been a number of home study reports which were prevented from being finalized while waiting for screening results.

Average number of days to complete home studies:				
	2015-16 year end	2016-17 year end	2017-18 1st quarter	2017-18 2nd quarter
Regions 1 & 2	111 days	134 days	127	144
Region 3	There have been no home studies completed since adding this region to determine time frames. This region will be added to the next quarter report when home studies have been completed.			
Region 5	154 days	111 days	103	103
Region 6	156 days	145 days	140	156
Region 7	200 days	163 days	166	153
All Regions	151 days	137 days	132	139

**Strategy 2:** Collaborate with State/Tribal Welfare Consultation Workgroup to determine level of expansion of Unity required by assessing current implementation of UNITY.

There continues to not be a need for a UNITY training of trainers. CPS has trained the Yankton Sioux and Flandreau Santee Tribes to utilize PRIDE Online. The State/Tribal Welfare Consultation group will continue to monitor the need for additional UNITY trainers. There is not a need at this time. Oglala Sioux Tribe has expressed interest in utilizing PRIDE Online and will explore the possibility of utilization in the year.

**Objective D:** Foster parents have the capacity to provide children with safety and stability while in their care.

**Strategy 1:** Implement PRIDE Online, which replaces the current PRIDE curriculum and provides a combination of classroom and on-line training, in addition to a component on childhood trauma.

As of April 30, 2018, 213 people who completed PRIDE Online filled out a survey on Survey Monkey about their experience. CPS continues to compile the data to improve implementation of PRIDE Online. Two new questions were added to the survey in October of 2017: (1) "Online training made it more convenient to attend PRIDE and (2) "Did the availability of online training have an effect on your decision to complete PRIDE?" 88% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed the online format is easy to use. 20 respondents were more interested in completing PRIDE due to the training being online. 1 respondent would not have completed PRIDE if it was not online. 94% of respondents felt PRIDE Online enhanced their training experience. 98% felt

the program helped strengthen their knowledge and skills. The training met the expectations of 97% of respondents.

**Strategy 2:** Enhance ongoing training of current foster families and develop training opportunities to meet the identified need.

The initial and renewal study were revised in August of 2017 and staff were trained in December of 2017. The revised home studies include a section for the licensing specialist to identify development goals for the foster parent. These goals are assessed during the yearly license renewal visit and new goals are created. The Licensing Program Specialists are conducting random reviews of completed home studies using the revised format to evaluate the quality of the home studies and will provide feedback to licensing supervisors and their staff.

**Objective E:** Retain currently licensed foster parents.

**Strategy 1:** Improve customer service and support to currently licensed foster parents.


CPS continues to enhance customer services and support currently licensed foster parents.

CPS created a thank you card for foster parent appreciation month. The card was signed by First Lady Linda Daugaard. A card was sent to every foster parent in South Dakota, which included those licensed by CPS, as well as foster families licensed by tribal agencies and child placement agencies.

The regions did various things for foster parent appreciation month in May.


Region 1 had a party at a local gym with activities and food.

Region 2 had a pool party on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

  
FPA  
pizzapoolinvite.pub20

Regions 3 had a picnic in Pierre and held a walk in Eagle Butte.

Region 4 made magnets and sent them to their current foster parents.

  
20180522\_140629.j  
pg

Region 5 had a party at a bowling alley in Aberdeen. A dinner was held at a local restaurant in Watertown. Huron sent out a thank you card from the local CPS staff with a drawing for a gift card. Brookings CPS held a potluck at a local gym and provided sub sandwiches.

Regions 6 had a picnic and awarded a foster family of the year. Nominations for foster parent of the year came from local CPS staff.

**Strategy 2:** Develop a Foster Parent Handbook which includes a foster parent bill of rights.

CPS updated the Foster Parent Handbook on August of 2017 related to policy updates. The updates were mailed to current foster parents. CPS is working on another update which will be sent out to foster parents in June of 2018.

## **XI. STAFF TRAINING**

### Certification Training

CPS continues to provide mandatory Certification training for all newly hired Family Services Specialists(FSS). The Certification program also is required for any newly hired Supervisors, Regional Managers, or Program Specialists. The rotation allows for staff to enter the training cycle shortly after their hire date. The current Certification training is 192 hours of training.

The training rotation for each of the Certification components is as follows:

- Foundation (36 hours)
- Initial Family Assessment/Safety Evaluation/Planning/Interviewing (36 hours)
- Ongoing Services/Case Planning and Safety Management (36 hours)
- Permanency/Well Being (34 hours)
- Intake/ FACIS (SACWIS) training (30 hours)
- Trauma Informed Practice (20 hours)
- Additionally, staff attend the foster/adoptive parent training program (PRIDE) (30 hours) and Common Sense Parenting classes (4 hours).

The Certification faculty includes 39 trainers from CPS, a physician who trains on medical indicators of child abuse and neglect, and an attorney for the Department of Social Services Division of Legal Services who trains on the legal components of CPS, including ICWA. The ICWA Program Specialist continues to provide Cultural Awareness training as part of Foundation training week.

Foundation training is being offered 4 times a year. IFA, Ongoing, and Permanency are offered 3 times a year. Trauma Training is held one time a year. It has been determined staff need a year worth of field experience prior to attending trauma training, in order to allow FSSs to have an understanding of the effects of trauma on children and families, and the effects of secondary trauma on themselves.

A work group comprised of Family Services Supervisors, Certification Faculty, Family Services Specialists, a Program Specialist and a Regional Manager was created to review the Certification process and make recommendations on making certification a more integrated process between the trainings and field work. The preliminary consensus of the work group was to restructure certification to provide FSSs with:

1. Shorter training sessions
2. More training in the field
3. Training on real life cases
4. Provide level one training (basic) and a level two training (advanced)
5. Provide different training opportunities through skype, DDN, classroom and field consultations
6. Less time out of the office and less travel.

IFA certification faculty, Program Specialist Beers and Contractor Pamela Bennett met in January 2018 to restructure the IFA training in the first major revision of the structure and delivery of a Certification training section.

### Ongoing Training

CPS continues to provide formal ongoing training for Family Services Specialists and Family Services Specialist Supervisors. Depending on the need, CPS provides training either through Skype for Business or traditional class room settings.

In 2017-2018, the following trainings were held in group classroom setting in each Region:

- Family Services Specialists were provided training on Conditions for Return in June 2017. (8 hours)
- CPS provided training on Initial Family Assessment enhancement and the CFSR results to the Family Services Specialists, Family Services Specialist Supervisors and Regional Managers in June 2017. (2 hours)
- CPS provided training on the enhanced Child's Case Plan and the Adverse Childhood Experience model in June and August 2017 to all Ongoing Family Services Specialists and Family Services Specialist Supervisors. (4 hours)
- CPS provided training in August and September 2017 on non-resident parent policy and practice and the Non-Resident Parent Case Plan to the Family Services Specialists, Family Services Specialists, Supervisors and Regional Managers. (2 hours)
- CPS provided Motivational Interviewing Level 1 in August and September 2017 to Program Specialists, Regional Managers, Supervisors and Lead Workers. (14 hours)
- CPS provided Motivational Interviewing Level 2 in January and April 2018 to Program Specialists, Regional Managers, Supervisors and Lead Workers. (14 hours)
- Family Services Specialists attended Motivational Interviewing Level 1 training on January 24, 2018, March 7, 8, March 12,13,14,15,and April 16, 17, 18, 19, 2018. Motivational Interviewing will become part of certification training for new Family Services Specialists.
- CPS provided Kinship Training in December 2017 and January 2018 to Family Services Specialists and Family Services Specialist Supervisors and Regional Managers. (3 hours)

In September 2017, consultation, coaching and skill development sessions began in Region 6 (Sioux Falls) with the Family Services Specialists, Family Services Specialists Supervisors, Regional Managers, Consultant, and Program Specialists on the Comprehensive Safety Model (CSI). The sessions comprise of a random selection by the local office of live Initial Family Assessments. This process has been repeated in Regions 1, 4, 5 and 7 and will continue with the other regions in the state.

In September 2017, consultation, coaching and skill development began with the Regional Managers on the safety model. The regional managers complete a survey on Survey Monkey determining the accuracy of the decisions which were made and the sufficiency of information collected. Conference calls are held with the Regional Managers as a group and the Program Specialists, and an Independent Consultant/Assistant Division Director.

In January 2018, the consultation, coaching, and skill development process was implemented with members of the CSI workgroup. They are reviewing a case through the process via Survey Monkey and then a call to debrief every other month.

Regional consultation and coaching on the comprehensive development of the child's case plan began in May of 2018 in Region 1. Additional coaching sessions were held in Region 7 and Region 3. The coaching was directed at regions who were reporting difficulties in making the transition from the previous child case planning process.

## Supervisor Development

CPS continues to focus on the enhancement of supervision skills. In response to achieving this objective, CPS is committed to providing specialized training for Supervisors related to clinical and consultation skills in implementing the Comprehensive Safety Intervention (CSI) model.

CPS set forth a goal of enhancing the safety decision making of supervisors. Enhancing the competency of the supervisors leads to accurate decisions of child safety, precise safety planning, and improved outcomes for children and families, through consultations, coaching and skill application.

To best determine the needs of each supervisor, the division directed a team of evaluators to complete the assessment and evaluation. The review team is comprised of Program Specialists Cara Beers and JoLynn Bostrom, and Pamela Bennett, Independent Consultant/Assistant Division Director.

The assessment focuses on gathering information to determine each supervisor's basic understanding of the Comprehensive Safety Model (CSI) to determine, what, if any, deficits exist in the supervisor's practice, and if there are deficiencies to determine what development would be necessary to enhance the supervisor's knowledge, skill, and/or motivation.

The following are the sources of data for the evaluation.

- Review of Request for Services Screening and Response Decisions
- Review of Present Danger Assessments and Determinations
- Review of Initial Family Assessment Information Elements
- Review of Impending Danger Determination and Analysis
- Review of Safety Plan Determinations
- Review of Conditions for Return
- Review of Protective Capacity Case Plans and Protective Capacity Case Plan Evaluation
- Review of Case Records of Children entering the Division's Custody
- Review of Court Reports
- Onsite Record Reads with Regional Manager, Supervisors, and Family Services Specialists
- Observation of Group Supervision if applicable
- Supervisory Input to Impending Danger Enhancements

In September 2017, the assessment began in Region 6 which is the Sioux Falls office. It was completed in December of 2017 however sporadic onsite record reads continue in order to assess for application of learning.

The onsite record reviews have been started in Regions 1, 4, 5, and 7, with the intent Region 1 will be next to complete the full assessment and evaluation of the supervisors.

Based on the findings of each Supervisor a determination will be made as to which Supervisors will require more formalized training.

## **ICPC AND ICAMA MEETINGS**

### **Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)**

CPS signed the MOU with the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) in June of 2017. Throughout the SFY 2018, South Dakota CPS and the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT) have been working with Tetrus and the NEICE staff to implement the system.

A number of meetings have been held regarding the explanation of the NEICE screens and types of users (user roles) available for state access to the system, as well as a number of technical meetings regarding onboarding the NEICE portal to the FACIS system. State Office CPS program staff have been familiarizing themselves with the NEICE portal. The BIT staff have been working with Tetrus in the onboarding process.

Once the system is up and running, CPS has chosen to continue to have each ICPC request sent to State Office where staff will enter the data on NEICE during the testing and implementation period. This will allow State Office to become very familiar with the screens and process before allowing local offices to enter the data themselves when requesting home studies. Future plans consist of developing training and writing policy and procedure on how to use the NEICE system.

The ICPC Deputy Compact Administrator was unable to attend the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting in Seattle WA in April 2018 due to the need to prepare for the South Dakota Federal IV-E review occurring in May 2018.

The ICAMA meeting in Chicago, IL April 2018 was not attended.

## **IVE TRIBAL AGREEMENT AND TRAINING**

CPS will be passing through IVE training funds to tribal programs at the tribe's request for allowable IVE training activities.

## **XII. COLLABORATION WITH THE COURTS**

Child Protection Services and the Unified Judicial System (UJS) Court Improvement Program (CIP) continue to collaborate on activities related to the divisions' Child and Family Services Plan and Program Improvement Plan. The CPS Division Director and two Regional Managers participate as members of the CIP Committee, which meets quarterly. The CIP Committee is comprised of the following entities:

1. Circuit Judges
2. State's Attorney 's Office Representative
3. Court Administrator
4. Law Enforcement
5. School Superintendent
6. Attorney
7. Child Protection Services Representatives (3)
8. Victim Witness Specialist
9. CASA Representative
10. Tribal ICWA Director
11. Legislator
12. Director of the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment
13. UJS CIP Coordinator

The Annual Children's Justice Conference was held with one session on September 19, 2017 in Rapid City and another session on September 21, 2017 in Sioux Falls. The presentations included topics on surviving child maltreatment and trauma, a presentation by the South Dakota Drug Task Force about drug trends, understanding addiction and recovery, and a motivational speaker. The 2018 conference will be held on October 5-6, 2-18 in Sioux Falls and will be a collaborative effort between the UJS Court Improvement Program (CIP) Committee, Child's Voice and the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment (CPCM) at the University of South Dakota titled: Annual Community Response to Child Abuse.

One project the CIP Committee chose to focus on was representation of children and parents in abuse and neglect court proceedings. Survey Monkey was used to gather information from attorneys related to their representation, such as how often they meet with their clients, training needs, working relationship with CPS and recommendations for improvements. The results are being compiled and plan will be developed related to communicating the results with impacted parties.

Another project of the CIP Committee is the revision of the South Dakota Guidelines for Judicial Process in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases. The guidelines were developed in 1999 and were revised 2007 and 2014. Some of the key revisions will include the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights with guidance, and quality six month reviews and permanency hearings to improve permanency outcomes for youth. The goal is to have the "Guidelines" completed by the fall of 2018 and distributed to all circuit court judges, states attorneys, attorneys who represent children and parents and CASA directors. Based on the CFSR Round 3 Statewide Assessment, revision of the "Guidelines" is one strategy to focus on the items within the Case Review Systemic Factor that will be addressed through the PIP. CPS will request involvement of the CIP in working on the PIP for those items which can be impacted by the Courts.

The CIP Coordinator is a member of the Justice for Children's Committee (CJA Task Force and Citizen Review Panel).

The CIP Coordinator was state reviewer in the Title IV-E Federal Review May 21-25, 2018. participated in the meeting with staff from the Children's Bureau regarding the Round 3 CFSR Final Report.

The Protective Services Program Specialist is a member of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Commission, which meets yearly to review proposed CASA grants. The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Commission is administered and staffed by the Unified Judicial System and includes one member appointed by the Governor, who currently is a Program Specialist in CPS and has experience in the area of child abuse and neglect assessments. At the CASA Commission annual meeting, the six Executive CASA Directors present their grant request to the Commission in order to receive funds. The grants are awarded to support the development, growth, quality, and continuation of CASA programs in South Dakota. CPS recently signed separate updated MOUs with each of the six CASA programs.

### **XIII. OUTCOMES MANAGEMENT (QA & CQI)**

#### **Safety, Permanency and Well-Being Reviews**

In April, 2015, South Dakota began using the Onsite Monitoring System (OMS) designed by JBS International for entering case review data in the CQI site. The ACF and Region VIII Office were then able to review the South Dakota cases and make comments with regard to rating items, as well as provide input and guidance for the review process. ACF and Region VIII Office staff attended training for South Dakota staff in preparation for the CFSR Round 3 and provided guidance and input to the CQI team members. Following this training, the ACF and Region VIII staff attended the onsite Brookings review in August and the Sioux Falls review in November and assisted with the QA process.

The ACF included IFA/PDP cases open longer than 45 days during the period under review in the in-home category of cases for the CFSR. IFA/PDP cases will only be used if there are not enough true in-home cases to make up the 25 in-home cases each PIP review year. Another change for the CFSR timeframe included adding one to two alternate cases in the event a case has to be eliminated due to lack of interviews of key participants. The number of alternate cases for each office is based on the total of cases pulled.

In Years Two and Three of SPWB Round 3, between 72 and 78 cases were reviewed, resulting in approximately the same number of cases for Round Three as were reviewed in the first two rounds. While South Dakota has been encouraged to review more cases if possible, it is not feasible; South Dakota does not have a dedicated review team, but rather uses staff from all levels within Child Protection Services to conduct reviews. Based on staff availability, in conjunction with their normal job duties, South Dakota has reached the maximum number of cases which can be reviewed within a three-year cycle.

#### **2019 Progress Update**

The Outcomes Management Program Specialist provided training to offices entering their Period Under Review (PUR) to discuss each item, the purpose of the item, what the item considers and how South Dakota's current policy correlates to the item. During this training, there is discussion regarding new policy/documents being implemented and how they support Child Protection Services in making progress towards better outcomes. These include: Parent/Child Narrative Tabs, Child Case Plan, Non-Resident Parent Case Plan, Conditions for Return and Protective Capacity Assessment. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist discusses areas CPS underperformed in the CFSR, and how the policies we currently have and the ones being implemented, when followed, will help achieve better outcomes. During this training, the Outcomes Management Program Specialist provided refresher training on engagement of children and parents in case planning, as well as needs assessment. At this time, the following offices have completed the training: Hot Springs, Mobridge, Winner, Huron, Brookings, Chamberlain, Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls. There are upcoming trainings scheduled with Mission June 25, 2018, Aberdeen July 2, 2018 and Mobridge August 28, 2018.

The offices for each round of the PIP review years were chosen by the Measurement and Sampling Committee (MASC) by using the three data points of average weighted poverty, median number in foster care, and median foster care rate (number in foster care per 1,000 population). They grouped offices to be roughly comparable to the grouping of the five of the seven CFSR sites. Sioux Falls and Rapid City were not included in the analyses as they are reviewed annually and their demographics are different from the rest of the offices in the state. South Dakota is reviewing additional offices which are not a part of the PIP review for CQI purposes. Below is the review schedule for Round Four of the SPWB Reviews:

- Round four, year one of the SPWB review started March 2018, and the offices being reviewed are: Pierre, Vermillion, Brookings, Lake Andes, Huron, Sioux Falls, and Rapid City. Vermillion and Lake Andes data will not be counted towards the PIP measurement.
- Round four, year two starts March 2019, and the offices being reviewed are: Mitchell, Hot Springs, Mission, Aberdeen, Mobridge, Sturgis, Sioux Falls, Rapid City. Mitchell and Aberdeen data will not be used towards the PIP measurement.
- Round four, year three starts March 2020, and the offices to be reviewed are: Yankton, Deadwood, Chamberlain, Eagle Butte, Watertown, Winner, Sioux Falls, and Rapid City. Yankton, Eagle Butte, and Winner data will not be used towards the PIP measurement.

### Continuous Quality Improvement

Following the completion of the Statewide Assessment the Management Team and CPS Supervisors continue to work on CQI projects. Many of the projects relate to the implementation of enhanced or new practices in a number of program areas. CQI has been used and will continue to be used to monitor the implementation of those enhanced or new practices to assess fidelity and effectiveness of the practice.

Supporting those we serve is a goal included in the DSS Strategic Plan. There are a number of strategies and actions steps which will require the use of CQI.

CPS piloted Conditions for Return in three offices and implemented the practice enhancement statewide in July 2017. QA was completed on cases by the workgroup and modifications were made when needed during the pilot to refine the practice and assess the impact of the service. CPS will continue to monitor practice and the impact in the early stages of statewide implementation through case reviews. Adjustments will be made as needed through the CQI process.

CPS made revisions to the Child Case Plan and piloted it in three offices. QA of the Child Case Plans was completed during the pilot. The revised plan was implemented statewide August 1, 2017. QA will continue to be completed by the Outcomes Management Program Specialist of case plans as they are completed by staff. After QA of the initial Child Case Plan and subsequent evaluations, quarterly pulls of Child Case Plans will be taken from each office to monitor quality on an ongoing basis. Random pulls of Child Case Plan Addendums are completed for compliance and quality checks. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist will continue to provide coaching and guidance to offices who are struggling with the Child Case Plans and will provide additional training as needed per office/region. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist continues to work with individual offices to help complete a backlog of Child Case Plans and work through the changes to the Child Case Planning Process. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist has been leading Child Case Plan Study Halls to provide direct coaching and instant feedback regarding the case plan process. Region 1 (Rapid City) completed their Child Case Plan Study Hall on May 1, 2018 in which seven Child Case Plans were completed and Region 7 (Mitchell, Lake Andes, Vermillion, and Yankton) had two study halls May 10, 2018 and May 30 2018 in which 23 Child Case Plan were completed. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist received the following feedback from the two Regions who completed the Child Case Plan Study Hall.

- Getting instant feedback from the Program Specialist was beneficial to know what needs to be documented
- Family Services Specialists are more confident in moving forward with completing additional Child Case Plans
- Family Services Specialists were able to focus on getting case plans completed
- Family Services Specialists felt it was a good use of their time.
- Region 1 has held additional study halls to help complete their work after attending the Child Case Plan Study Hall.

The Outcomes Management Program Specialist is scheduled to complete the Child Case Plan Study Hall in Pierre on June 21, 2018 and Eagle Butte on June 22, 2018. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist is in the process of implementing a Child Case Plan consultation to assist Family Services Specialists and Supervisors on completing relevant and goal focused Child Case Plans. This process will mirror the Initial Family Assessment Consultations.

CPS implemented caseworker visits narrative tabs in FACIS related to visits to parents, in home children, and in children foster care. The caseworker screens for both the child and the parent were implemented April 3, 2017. The CQI Core Team prepared a survey of Family Service Specialists to gather their input relating to the effectiveness, efficiency, and functionality of the narrative tabs. After the survey is completed, a Family Services Specialist Supervisor Survey will be completed to gather their input relating to the effectiveness, efficiency, and functionality of the narrative tabs. After all the data is collected from both surveys, revisions to the narrative tab and policy will be completed. After policy is implemented, the Outcomes Management Program Specialist will provide oversight to ensure the tabs are being utilized correctly and the goals of the tabs are being met. The first step will be to complete a random pull of cases from each office to check compliance and quality. When completed, quality reviews will be completed on a random pull of cases along with pulls from the Child Case Plan reviews.

CPS is in the process of implementing the Permanency Round Tables (PRTs) model statewide. PRTs will be used to target youth who have been in care for an extended period of time and are in need of a permanent placement resource. CPS will be tracking outcomes to determine the impact of the program.

South Dakota is engaging with the Capacity Building Center for States and Courts to develop an instrument to complete case reviews with the intent of pinpointing issues related to timely achievement of permanency. As part of the PIP, South Dakota will gather data, based on specific case dynamics, child age, ethnicity, region, time in care, state or tribal court, and other factors. Individual case reviews will be completed on case files, as well as court and administrative review observations. The project is being designed so the results will be specific to each regional office in the state, and individual and specific strategies can be created to address the identified concerns.

In addition to this work, CPS implemented the most recent enhancement to the CSI model, safety plan determination and conditions for return in order to return children home sooner, safely, with an emphasis on keeping them in the family home, and ultimately preventing re-entry into foster care through the development of an in-home safety plan.

While frequency is important, the quality of the PPRTS and six-month review hearings is also critical to achieving permanency. Child Protection Services is working the Court Improvement Program Committee (CIP) and the state and tribal courts to allow observers to attend a sample of six-month reviews to gather information based on an instrument to help evaluate the quality of PPRTS and six-month review hearings. An instrument has been developed to document observations related to the key activities expected to take place during a six-month periodic review. Discussion has begun with the Court Improvement Program Coordinator. Further discussions will need to be held with the State Court Administrator and Tribal Court Judges to obtain permission to complete the observation part of the review in the respective courts. PPRTs will also be assessed for quality through an observer using the instrument.

The Protective Capacity Assessment Case Plan is intended for parents who have diminished protective capacities which expose the child to impending or present danger. Child Protection Services did not have a case plan for non-resident parents who have no assessed danger threats. Child Protection Services determined the implementation of a more formal plan for non-resident parents in these situations would help staff implement policy and practice and address those issues found in the CFSR related to non-resident parents. Statewide, regionally based training

was provided to all Supervisors and Family Services Specialists on the Non-Resident Parent Case Plan. The Ongoing Services Program Specialist is taking the lead in overseeing implementation of the Non-Resident Parent Case Plan.

The Ongoing Program Specialist will be conducting a quarterly review of Non-Resident Case Plans to ensure the fidelity of the Non-Resident Parent Case Plan policy.

- The first quarterly review was completed in February 2018.
  - Non-Resident Parent Case Plans were pulled from the FACIS system for the time frame of October 2017-December 2017.
  - Sixteen out of twenty-five case plans were reviewed.
  - During the review, fourteen Non-Resident Parent Case Plans met the fidelity criteria.
  - Two cases did not meet fidelity due to the fact they should have had completed a Protective Capacity Assessment.
  - Outcomes from the Non-Resident Parent Case Plans include:
    - Two cases children were placed with the non-resident parent
    - Two cases ended in no reasonable efforts and termination of parental rights
    - Two cases are moving towards placement
    - One case is moving towards termination of parental rights
    - Six cases have connections and are having contact
    - One case no reasonable efforts were ordered
- The second quarterly review was conducted in May 2018 for the time period of February 2018-April 2018.
  - Fifteen out of twenty-six case plans were reviewed.
  - During the review, eleven Non-Resident Case Plans met the fidelity criteria.
  - Four cases did not meet fidelity due to the fact there was a lack of diligent efforts to contact the non-resident parent.
  - Outcomes from the Non-Resident Parent Case Plans include
    - One case is moving towards placement
    - One case, children were placed with the non-resident parent
    - One case has pending Termination of Parental Rights
    - Eight cases have connections and are having contact

The Ongoing Program Specialist provides feedback of the findings to the Supervisor who oversees the FSS caseload and the Regional Manager. The Ongoing Program Specialist is also reviewing non-resident parents during the out of home safety plan reviews which was completed for Region 6 and will continue the process as the other regions are reviewed.

CPS will be implementing a two component assessment process to better understand the perspectives of staff related to working with families and permanency, the overall office culture and norms, and the fidelity of practice and decision-making.

Assessment Component I was initiated in an effort to assess whether the children in out-of-home care (out of home safety plan) require this level of placement. It was determined the review could also be paired with Assessment Component II to strengthen the assessment of implementation of practice. Assessment Component I was begun with the Sioux Falls office and this process thus far has provided a good initial view of trends of practice in safety assessment, planning and management. The process assisted in the facilitation of 23 children transitioning to in-home safety plans with a caregiver.

- Assessment Component I:
  - A review of each office will be completed related to children in out of home safety plans. The criteria for case selection is all cases of children from each office entering foster care and kinship care during the 12 months prior to the start date of the review. All cases in the sample will be reviewed within an office unless a trend is seen prior to all the cases being reviewed.
  - Cases are reviewed by the Protective Services. Ongoing Services Program Specialists, Outcome Management Program Specialist, and the Assistant Director, the Comprehensive Safety Intervention model (CSI) instruments.
  - A list of cases reviewed are provided to the Regional Manager to follow up to make a determination if children can be returned home with an in-home plan.
  - A determination is made by the reviewers as to whether the recommendations were implemented.
  
- Assessment Component II:
  - A review of Initial Family Assessments (IFA) from each office will be completed. Each Region will be reviewed during a 4-5 month period. The process for the assessment of the Supervisors' skills and coaching will be as follows:
  - Regional Managers select the cases to be reviewed. The IFA will be reviewed by the review team based on the instruments and concepts of the CSI model.
  - A case consultation meeting will then be held by the review team with the Regional Manager, Supervisor and Family Services Specialist to provide additional coaching using one of the IFA cases reviewed. The group will work through the case using the CSI instrument and related case information to assess and provide consultation on the following:
    - Screening decision and response time (initial contact).
    - Determination of present danger.
    - Protocol used for case interviews.
    - Whether there was sufficient information provided related to the six elements of the IFA.
    - Whether there was impending danger.
    - If there was impending danger, what the impending danger statement should include.
    - Safety plan determinations in open cases.
    - Conditions for return criteria when children are placed in out of home safety plans.
  - The Regional Manager will make a decision as to whether more coaching is necessary. If further coaching is needed, a plan will be developed with the Regional Manager and Supervisors to determine how the coaching will be provided.
  - A Supervisor evaluation report will be written for each Region which will provide a summary of the process, findings and conclusions and recommendations. The evaluation will include identified areas of need related to staff perspective and office culture and norms.
  - A follow up review of cases (no more than 2 cases per Supervisor) will be completed by the review team three months after coaching has been completed and will be completed quarterly thereafter to determine if the model and techniques are being used in practice.
  - If further coaching is needed, a plan will be developed with the Regional Manager and Supervisor to detail how the additional coaching will be provided.

The Protective Services Program Specialist has been providing QA regarding initial contact to help monitor the timeliness of initial contact to determine what, if any, patterns to why Family Services Specialist are not meeting initial contact.

The Protective Services Program Specialist and Ongoing Program Specialist have been completing a study of Request for Services screened as a 0-7 day initial contact and screened out Request for Services. The study is to determine if screeners are applying the screening criteria and to propose enhancement which can more clearly define screening and response criteria.

During the office reviews, the Outcomes Management Program Specialist completes stakeholder interviews from the office coverage area. These interviews include: a Judge, State's Attorney, child's attorney, mental health therapist, law enforcement, CASA, and any other agency which may be specific to the office's coverage area. The SPWB reviews will begin including stakeholder interviews with parents.

After an office review the Outcomes Management Program Specialist returns to the office six to eight weeks after the review to facilitate an exit meet. During the exit meeting the following is discussed; the results of the review, training on CQI and identify which area needing improvement the office to begin the CQI process with. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist will provide any additional training requested by the office.

The CQI Core Team will survey parents whose children are on Trial Reunification or have successfully had their children reunified with them. The purpose of the stakeholder interview with parents and survey's is to gather information to help improve the South Dakota Division of Child Protection Services provision of services. Parents will have the opportunity to voice what their expectations were in working with the Division and if those expectations were achieved. This will help the Division determine quality of services and areas where quality can be enhanced.

CPS continues to view CQI as an important tool in assuring quality practice and achieving positive outcomes for children and families. While some temporary adjustments have been made in the CPS CQI program, the projects described above are evidence of the commitment of DSS and CPS to an active CQI program.

#### **XIV. JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD**

##### **2019 Progress Update**

The Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services, (DSS/CPS) is the state agency responsible for administering, supervising and overseeing the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (CFCPSTA) under sections 471, 472, 474, 475 and 477 in the Title IV-E of the Social Security Act: Title I, and the Education and Training Vouchers Programs (ETV) set forth under Section 477 (a).

The identified Program Specialist and contact information are listed below.

Sherrie Fines-Tracy  
Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501  
605-773-3227  
Fax 605-773-6834  
[Sherrie.Fines-Tracy@state.sd.us](mailto:Sherrie.Fines-Tracy@state.sd.us)  
<http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/>

The Department of Social Services will cooperate with national evaluations of the effects of the program implemented to achieve its purpose as required under section 477 (b)(2)(f).

South Dakota's John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program 2015-2019 Plan describes South Dakota's goals and objectives for enhancing and improving services within the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

South Dakota's John H. Chafee Plan states South Dakota will expend no more than 30 percent of the allotment of federal funds for room and board for youth who left foster care because they attained 18 years of age, but have not yet attained age 21. For the purpose of the plan, "room and board" is defined to include housing (direct rental assistance, deposits, utilities, provide housing assistance if a youth is attending school full time and there are no dorms at the post-secondary school or for foster parent payments for youth remaining in their foster home after age 18 - Section 477(b)(3)(B & C).

CPS supports and follows the eight CFCPSTA Program purposes, applicable to the FFY 2018 grant. This information was provided to the ILS Workgroup Meeting in July and December 2017, CPS Supervisors and Management Team at the October 2017 meeting, Permanency and Well-Being Training for new staff, and at the 2018 Teen Conference. ILS updates are provided to CPS staff, the ILS Workgroup, and youth.

CPS will maintain the contract with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to provide Community Resource People (CRP) to provide support services regarding development of independent living skills for youth ages 15 through 18 in foster care and for young adults from 18 – 21 to assist in their transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency. The CRPs assist youth to prepare for post-secondary education; provide personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and promotion of interactions with dedicated adults; provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other appropriate support and services allow youth to have regular, ongoing opportunity to engage in age or developmental-appropriate activities as defined in section

475 (111) of the Act; and provide services to youth who after attaining 16 years of age have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption.

South Dakota's Chafee Foster Care Independence Living Program is designed to assist youth in foster care and as they are working toward independence. The program has been successful, because the Family Services Specialist (FSS) and CRPs provide ILS to the youth at an early age. The FSS and CRP continue to build on their relationship with youth as they transition to adulthood. Over this transition period, the youth establish strong connections and trust with the CRPs. The CRP Program established a process to continue the support of youth, while in care and after the youth transition to adulthood. The strength of the ILS Program is to involve youth in the planning process and ask for their input and feedback through surveys completed at the ILS Workshops, surveys completed at the teen conferences, the Exit Survey completed when the youth leaves care, and through the LSS-CRP Satisfaction Survey.

From the 2017 Exit Surveys youth completed, youth indicated the FSSs and CRPs were the number one person who talked to them about their future career. Based on information gathered from the surveys, youth comments have been very positive about the services they have received through the program. The following are some of the areas of service they felt were helpful:

- Support me;
- Tour ILPP, financial information, applying for post-secondary and scholarship;
- Provide information weigh pros and cons;
- Provide me information that I need;
- Help me to set-up my apartment with the starter kit, help me buy my car, and taught me various skills;
- Connect to resources;
- Provide college tours and budgeting;
- Help me talk me through things with my future;
- Teach me right from wrong and everything a youth would need to know;
- Learn skills, filling out forms, and help to feel stable;
- Provide a voice for me; and
- Help me stay out of trouble and put me in placements that were safe.

CPS revised the Child Case Plan; one of the revisions was to strengthen preserving connections. Preserving connections has been strengthen to provide more detail to the Child Case Plan and to give additional support to preserve connections with the youth and important people in their life. In 2017, there were trainings for CPS staff on the Child Case Plan including the preserving connections. The following information was added to the sibling, mother, father, and extended family/fictive kinship:

- Describe connections prior to removal and current situation.
- Consider sibling not in care.

- Identify the relationships which need to be developed and maintained. How will the relationship be developed and maintained (who, what, when frequency, responsible parties etc.)?
- Ensure sibling visits occur at least once per month outside of parental visits.
- How will the relationship be developed and maintained (who what, when, frequency responsible parties etc.)?
- Include Visitation Plan and other activities to support the parent child relationship, progress assessment and barriers.

In 2017, Young Voices focused on connections. Young Voices developed a Connection document which was integrated into the Child Case Plan. Adding this information to the Child Case Plan, will assist CPS in strengthening the connections developed for youth. Young Voices developed *What I Want My Worker to Know: About Who is Important to Me* which has been added to the Family and Children Information System (FACIS) and has been included in practice to use with children and youth in CPS custody to build on and maintain their meaningful connections.

CPS recognizes youth often try to reconnect with their family when they leave care. For this reason, CPS continues to enhance practice around developing connections with family, while the youth is in care. A requirement of the Age 16, Age 17, and Exit Planning Meetings is to invite whoever the youth wants at the meeting and to make these connections early so CPS can work with the youth and their family. A function of the meeting is to identify important people in the youth's life and to invite them to the meetings. Youth are encouraged to invite whomever they feel can help them plan for their future such as their FSS, CRP, Career Learning Center staff, school counselor, foster parent, group care center staff, family, mentors, advocates, or special friends. During the meeting, the importance of maintaining foster parent connections is reinforced. The FSS will invite the important people the youth requested to the ILS Meetings. The following are some questions which may be asked: Does the youth have support systems available to them? If not, what needs to be done to put these into place? What are the plans to get the youth connected with all the community resources which will assist the youth? The FSS, CRP, and youth discuss who the youth considers, and needs supports for the youth cultural, spiritual, recreational and educational.

The ILS Program provides assistance with senior pictures, graduation announcements, class rings, caps/gowns for graduation, uniforms required for work and driver's education classes.

#### **I. Report on the state's specific accomplishment achieved since the 2015-2019 CFSP submission.**

##### **Community Resource People:**

The goal of the CRP Program is to provide youth, as well as FSSs, foster parents, group and residential providers with resource information needed to bolster independent living skills. Information gathered from youth involved with the CRP Program indicates they are positive about the service they receive. In FFY 2018, youth completed the LSS-CRP Satisfaction Survey. The following are the responses to two questions from the survey:

- "My CRP is helpful"
  - 73 percent or 29 youth said "strongly agree" and 23 percent or 9 youth said "agree" and 96 percent or 38 youth agreed the CRPs are helpful.
- "My CRP treats me with respect"

- 73 percent or 31 youth said they “strongly agree and 23 percent or 9 youth said “agree” and 96 percent or 40 youth out of 41 youth agreed the CRPs treat them with respect.

The following are some comments from youth when they completed the LSS/CRP Satisfactory Survey concerning the CRPs. The question was “What is most helpful to you with the CRPs?”

- Guiding me though rough times.
- Helping me work through problems.
- Helping me to become independent.
- Learning FAFSA.
- Giving me information and helped me reach my goals.
- Getting ready for college.
- Providing me knowledge and answering my questions.
- Helping me see what I could do.
- Providing me information on things I need to know and learned many new things when meeting with her.
- Getting ready for college.
- Helping me talk about my problems.
- Listening to me and helping me to understand.
- Getting resources and future references.
- Learning about Young Voices.
- Talking about how to budget.

The following is a highlight from the Community Resource Person on a youth:

The youth is an 18 year old. She is attending high school and working towards her diploma. She is also the mother of an 8 month old. She has been attending school and taking her son to daycare at the school, riding the city bus but with her son to and from school. She received assistance from the CRP to find an apartment close to school; she can continue her education and not have to travel on the city bus to school with her son. The CRP's has assisted her with furniture and with some food to help get her settled in her apartment. The CRP will assist her with her driver license and talking to the youth about purchasing a vehicle. She has expressed great appreciation to the CRP for all of her assistance.

The following are the statistics related to services and activities completed by the CRPs for the timeframe July, 1, 2017 through May 1, 2018:

*Total youth served	349
** ILS services	2,544
Gender	
○ Male	172
○ Females	215
Race	
○ Native American	215
○ White	141
○ Other	31
* Total ILS services includes starter kits, assistance with obtaining a driver's license, group and individual trainings, Casey Life Skills Assessments (CLSA), educational and scholarship planning and special purchases.	
**Total youth served include those with specific ILS services and those with a CRP contact regarding services.	

### Trust Fund:

The State of South Dakota has chosen not to establish a trust fund program for youth in the DSS/CPS foster care system.

**Medicaid:**

The *Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program (FFCMA)* provided Medicaid coverage for 334 individuals from July 1, 2017 to June 1, 2018 with a monthly average of 274 youth covered during this time period. The FFCMA Program Specialist presented information on the program at the ILS Workgroup Meeting on December 2017 and 2018 Teen Conference. The information presented will assist youth to have a better understanding of the Medicaid coverage, how to utilize the program, and who to contact for assistance.

**Driver's Education:**

The cost for driver's education classes is paid when requested by the youth's FSS. The class consists of classroom instruction and behind the wheel driving. From July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018 \$4,407.00 of Chafee funding was provided to 16 youth for driver's education training.

**Assessments:**

The Independent Living Program requires an independent living assessment for all youth, in care, at the age of 16, and then again at the time they exit foster care. The Casey Life Skill Assessment (CLSA) is used to evaluate a youth's readiness to meet the challenges of adulthood and is designed to provide a picture of a youth's strengths and needs. The assessment tool is used to match the needs with independent living services. The results of the assessment are expected to be incorporated into the youths' case service plans by FSSs. The CRPs are responsible for ensuring assessments are completed within three months of a youth's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. From July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, 73 youth completed the CLSA.

**Starter Kits:**

The starter kit funds are provided to youth when youth are living on their own with a solid plan for independent living. Youth who have left foster care due to kinship guardianship or adoption before 18 years old can use the starter kit funding they earned when living on their own. None of the starter kit funds will be used for room or board. The ILS Program added honor roll grades as an incentive to the starter kit funding. From July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, \$6,484.00 of Chafee funding was used for 27 youth who received starter kit funds.

**Youth Organizers:**

The organizer helps youth gather the information they will need as they prepare to transition to adulthood and live on their own. The organizer can identify helpful information and provide youth a place to store their personal information. Youth ages 14 and older are provided with organizers. An organizer includes thirteen sections for keeping medical, housing, employment, education, insurance, legal, personal, emergency, family, school, tax, paid and unpaid bills and banking information. The Health Care Directory information has been added to the organizer. The CRPs give the organizers to CPS youth and to BIA and tribal youth.

**Independent Living Planning Meetings:** The Independent Living Planning Meetings assist the youth to have an earlier connection with other important people in the youth's life and provide the time necessary for the youth to prepare for adulthood. Before the meeting, the youth will identify important people in their life, to invite to the meeting, such as: their FSS, CRP, Career Learning Center staff, a school counselor, foster parents, group care center or residential treatment staff, birth family and extended family member(s), mentor(s), advocates or special friends. Youth are encouraged to invite whomever they feel can help them plan for their future. During the meeting, the importance of maintaining foster parent connections is reinforced.

- **Age 16 Planning Meeting:** One of the focuses of the *Age 16 Planning Meeting* is to review the CLSA (or other assessments), as a team, to provide input to determine strengths and needs when developing the youth's case plan for ILS services. The CLSA helps the team establish the direction to be taken to assist with independent living as the case plan is

developed for the youth. The credit report information is discussed during the meeting. Education is an important topic to discuss at the *Age 16 Planning Meeting* with emphasis on identifying a school contact, such as the school counselor, to participate in the meetings. This has assisted youth to ensure the educational components are covered and identify school credits obtained and those still needed to graduate. From July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, 45 *Age 16 Planning Meetings* were completed.

- **Age 17 Planning Meeting:** The main goal of the *Age 17 Planning Meeting* is to continue to plan for the youth's future. The meeting is used to review and assess the plan for the youth. The areas addressed at the *Age 16 Planning Meeting*, along with any other critical areas are addressed at the *Age 17 Planning Meeting*. The Health Care Directive information is part of the *Age 17 Planning Meeting* and to the *Exit/Transitional Meeting*. To assist with education, the Independent Living Program has the Health Care Directive pamphlet - *It's All About You and Decisions You Make* and *5 Wishes* booklet. A copy of these materials is given to youth at the *Exit/Transitional Meeting*. This information is added to the youth's ILS organizer, so the youth have it, before they leave care and the youth can complete the information when they turn age 18. Each youth is provided information on the importance of having a Power of Attorney for Health Care or a Health Care Directive, if they are unable to make decision themselves, their wish to be an organ and tissue donor upon their death and information on health care providers. The credit report information is also discussed during the *Age 17 Planning Meeting*. During the *Age 17 Planning Meeting*, the FSS and the CRPs continue to assist youth, verbalize their vision, and let them know what options and resources are available to help them reach their vision. The following areas are covered during the meeting: housing, education, employment, life skills, connections, and health. From July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, 46 youth completed the *Age 17 Planning Meetings*.
- **Exit/Transitional Meeting:** The *Exit/Transitional Meeting* process is an opportunity, not only for additional program information, but also for the youth to share concerns about the system, identify unmet needs, and further assess readiness to transition into independent living. Each youth requesting financial assistance needs to submit an individual plan for achieving independence. The information obtained in the *Exit/Transitional Meeting* can be used to develop this plan. From July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, 44 youth completed the *Exit/Transitional Meeting*. The response by youth to the Exit Survey indicated the FSS, followed by the CRPs, were the top people to discuss their future career plans with them.

### **ILS Workshops:**

All eligible youth have the opportunity to attend a workshop on each topic before reaching age 18. In addition to inviting youth to each workshop, invitations are extended to foster parents, adoptive parents, staff from group homes and residential treatment facilities, Department of Corrections (DOC) staff, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare staff so they have a better understanding of issues confronting youth as they prepare for independent living. The Independent Living Program recognizes the importance of youth attending school, therefore workshops are held on Saturdays or school holidays.

Training opportunities for youth are presented at the spring and fall regional workshops. The workshops are held in the western, northeast, eastern and central regions of the state twice each year. The ILS Workshop follows the Three-Year Plan which was set-up from the ILS Workgroup. The Three-Year Plan can be found in the ILS Five-Year Plan. Each youth is given the opportunity

to attend two workshops per year. From July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, 110 youth attended the fall 2016 workshops and 100 youth attended the spring 2016 workshops.

The topics for the fall 2017 workshop were: health, medical, housing, real life situations, budgeting, National Youth in Transitional Database (NYTD), and drug and alcohol prevention. The following are some of the comments from the youth related to the information presented at the workshops:

- The life story that was shared was helpful;
- The workshop was fun;
- I learned a lot from the workshop;
- The speaker that spoke about her life was very good;
- The speakers did a great job;
- The presenters provided a lot of good information;
- The workshop was awesome;
- The workshop was very helpful.
- The sex trafficking presentation I learned about manipulation;
- The sex trafficking helped me to understand what to look for to prevent it from happening;
- This workshop was one of the best ones that I have attended; the workshops has helped me to learn about the world;
- The workshops help me to become more independent;
- The video really impressed me; 5 youth said the workshop was very helpful;
- The workshops was motivational and helpful;
- The workshop topics were interesting.
- The workshop was very helpful and important;
- I had fun;
- The workshop was great;
- I enjoyed and plan to attend again;
- The workshop was awesome and helping youth;
- Great job, I really liked the skits;
- Workshop and speakers were good;
- Loved the personal experience;
- The workshop was inspiring; and
- I learned a lot from the workshop.

The topics for the spring 2018 ILS Workshop were legal, taxes and money, budgeting, NYTD, and drug and alcohol prevention. Some of the comments from the youth were:

- The workshop was very helpful;
- I learned a lot I didn't think of before such as how to manage money;
- The workshop taught me good skills to know these thing for later life; to save money and be wise on how to spend money;
- To start now on a budget; the workshop gave me advice to what I want to do; the presenter did a nice job;
- I loved the information; and the workshop was very helpful;
- The workshop was helpful, the workshop helped me to choose a placed for college;
- The workshop was excellent; the workshop helped me to think about higher education choices;

- I really enjoyed the workshop and covered everything a person would need to know;
- the workshop helped me to open my eyes to more; the workshop was extremely helpful;
- The workshop made have a better understanding; workshop was very organized;
- I loved to hear from the post-secondary schools;
- I appreciate the presenters coming and talking the time to talk to us; great information;
- Thank you very much for putting together the workshop;
- The workshop was nice;
- Police presentation was good, the workshop was helpful;
- There was a lot of very good information;
- The workshop was cool; and there were 6 youth that said no changes to the workshop;
- The workshop was helpful to decide good college qualities; the tour was helpful to know more about the college;
- I had a lot of fun with all activities;
- This workshop was so much better than any other one I attended; and
- There were 11 youth that the information presented was very helpful.

### **2018 Teen Conference:**

The 2018 Teen Conference was held on the campus of South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in June. The conference is a multi-day event which occurs every two years. The conference is designed to help youth improve their independent living skills as they transition from foster care into self-sufficiency. Youth from CPS, DOC, residential treatment facilities, group care centers for minors, and BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies are invited to attend the conference. The conference furnishes meals, transportation, workshops, evening activities and lodging for youth. The idea of having the conference on a college campus is to encourage youth who have been in the foster care system to think about the option of post-secondary education. This type of atmosphere opens their eyes to the endless possibilities of what they can do next with their future. The conference provides youth in foster care the opportunity to interact with other youth in similar situations and to learn important life skills. Seventy-nine youth attended and five additional youth attended the day activities at the conference.

The Independent Living Program collaborated with the Department of Health on the Personal Responsibility Education Program Grant. The overall goal of *Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention (SHARP)* project is to reduce teen pregnancy and STDs through interventions, to increase the knowledge, and skills of youth to reduce risky behaviors, and help youth identify qualities of healthy relationships. There were 84 youth who attended the *SHARP* training at the 2018 Teen Conference.

The 2018 Teen Conference topics included:

- South Dakota School of Mines and Technology representative provided a welcome and presentation and tours for the youth;
- A young adult who transitioned from foster care shared his story from being in foster care, the importance on going on to post-secondary school, and using the Education and Trainings Voucher scholarship;
- Young Voices members shared the NYTD data along with displaying NYTD flyers on the walls by the meeting rooms and in the dorm;
- Founder of Enlighten Communication presented on tough issues of sex and the challenges for young people to get the abstinence advantage;
- *SHARP* curriculum was shared to 84 youth at the conference;

- Department of Labor and Regulation provided a mock interview showing appropriate and inappropriate interview techniques;
- A representative from Youth and Family Services presenting on healthy relationships;
- A Family Nurse Practitioner provided information on services she provides at the Community Health Center such as regular family practice care, family planning services, birth control and STD testing;
- A social worker from St. Francis Indian School who lives on the Rosebud Indian Reservation shared her story and insight into Native American culture;
- A public speaker from the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe shared her story through experiences in dealing with obstacles by rising up to make a difference in her life and the lives of others;
- Department of Criminal Investigation shared information on internet safety and human trafficking in South Dakota. The presenter also presented, "How to Prevent From Becoming a Victim of Human Trafficking";
- A Community Resource Fair was provided to the youth. The community contacts which were part of the fair were the following: Department of Labor, Build Dakota, Department of Social Services, Independent Living Program and Economic Assistance with Medicaid; Youth and Family Services, South Dakota Public Housing, Department of Health, Job Corps, Western Resources, Black Hills State University, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota, Oglala Lakota College, Western Dakota Technology, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and Seek Learn and Grow;
- Evening activities included a talent show, dance, and tours of Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse. At Crazy Horse, a culture presentation was shared with the youth. The talent show was an outstanding event where youth showed their talents through singing, acting, dancing, and providing humor. There was also creative art displayed which showed the youth's artistic talent.

At the closing ceremony, a slide show of the conference week was shared with the youth. CPS's goal for youth is to have ambitious goals for their transition to adulthood. CPS want youth to be able to advocate for themselves, complete their education, become a successful member of their community, be safe and have the opportunity to create their own strong family. The Independent Living Program provides them with the tools to help accomplish these things. CPS, the CRPs, IL Workgroup members and members of Young Voices planned the 24<sup>th</sup> Independent Living 2018 Teen Conference in Rapid City at the School of Mines and Technology.

### **ILS Workgroup:**

The Independent Living Workgroups is staffed by a full-time Independent Living Program Specialist and includes representatives from over 20 various entities and over 30 youth. Staff and youth involved with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies are invited to participate in the IL Workgroup. The Independent Living Workgroup members represent CPS current and past foster care youth, the DOC, foster/adoptive parents, staff from group care centers for minors and residential treatment facilities, staff from Lutheran Social Services and the CRP's and their supervisor. A representative of the Department of Labor and Regulation was added as a member of the ILS Workgroup. The Independent Living Workgroup meets at least twice a year for planning, organizing and facilitating the workshops and teen conferences. Workgroup members evaluate the success of the conference, plan for the workshops and provide guidance to the IL Program Specialist for planning for independent living services. The workgroup minutes are distributed to participating agencies and individuals as well as any other interested parties.

During the ILS Workgroup Meetings, the CFCPSTA, Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP) and NYTD are regular topics. Information has been shared with the ILS Workgroup; workgroup members and youth have a better understanding of this information. After sharing this information,

CPS asks for the ILS members and youth for their input. CPS continues to involve youth through Young Voices to receive input from them to assist with the CFCPSTA, CFSP, and NYTD. ILS Workgroup Meetings were held on July 26, 2017 and December 28, 2017. The ILS Workgroup will continue to meet twice a year and the agenda will be focused on the CFSP, NYTD, training for youth, Young Voices and areas of need as determined by data and input from Workgroup members. During the spring of 2018, the workgroup meet by conference call in February, March, and May to plan for the teen conference.

### **South Dakota Advocacy – Young Voices**



Logo developed by Young Voices

Young Voices will continue to share the NYTD data with different organizations. CPS realizes the importance for the youth to communicate to others on what their data is saying in South Dakota. Young Voices have integrated the NYTD data into their power point presentation along with information about the ILS Program and resources which are available to the youth after leaving custody. Young Voices share information about the ILS Program and resources which are available to the youth after leaving custody. The youth also integrate their journey into the presentations so others have an understanding about the youth's life. The youth shared their experiences in foster care and group care, their outlook today, and future goals. Youth have learned to speak about their life stories and experiences in a way which leads to positive changes in themselves and others. Young Voices operates under the Positive Youth Development model, which focuses on teaching youth to make their own positive decisions for their lives. Youth have learned to speak out about their life stories and experiences in a way which leads to positive changes in themselves and others. Young Voices members become mentors for their peers and develop positive support relationships with other youth who transitioning. The power point presentation has been a very powerful tool for Young Voices for delivering their message.

The following is a poem a youth created of her life and shared at a Young Voices Presentation:

### **This Isn't Me, I'm So Much More**

My parents were addicts.  
Til' they were six feet under they sipped.  
After my parents death,  
That's when I started to struggle to keep myself in check.  
My aunt became sick but still had the strength to be strict.  
I swear her boyfriend became the devil's drunk walking stick.  
Grades dropped, smiles dropped, everything slowly started to tumble downhill.  
Believe me, God! I'd cry, I swear I mean no ill will.  
It's just hard for me to express how I really feel.  
After a while, into the group home I went.  
They gave me opportunities to open up, through weights, words; I lost count of how many late  
nights at the gym were spent.  
I've had my ups and downs there.  
Through all the tears of joy and anger, I realized that the people here really do care.  
I took advantage of my time.  
Learned all that I could, did all that I could, man I was on a grind.  
I'm so thankful for the support they offered me.  
Pretty soon, I started hanging out with different people, daily I was asked, Aye, you, I want a go  
for a smoke, I want a take a dip, come on..., I'd reply with Zee.  
I was starting to see my own worth.  
To my mind, body, and soul, went all my effort.  
Today, I get compliments about my smile, my grades are great, I became really self-disciplined.  
I was profiled as aggressively independent by a psychiatrist.  
Anything that I set my mind to, I believed I could do it.  
I became the only High School female wrestler despite all the negative comments.  
I plan to go to college for architecture, and business, I'm not doing enough if my hands aren't  
going to bleed  
Because never again will I go without electricity or water because I'll have me, and I'll succeed  
I'll be going to Boston Massachusetts to attend the Congress of Future Science and Technology  
Leaders as a delegate representing my school, my tribe, and the State of South Dakota, and I  
don't even like science!  
Hell, I know I'm going to go somewhere in life, I know I'm going to prove that the cycle of  
addiction and abuse can be broken, I'm going to triumph.  
The lady you see standing in front of you, was forged from the fires of my own desire  
I'm a fighter, risen out of the ashes of my former self; I have built the foundations of my own  
empire.  
The little girl who couldn't sleep at night in fear, who hated herself, who thought nothing of  
herself, I'm not her anymore, that isn't me.  
I am so much more.

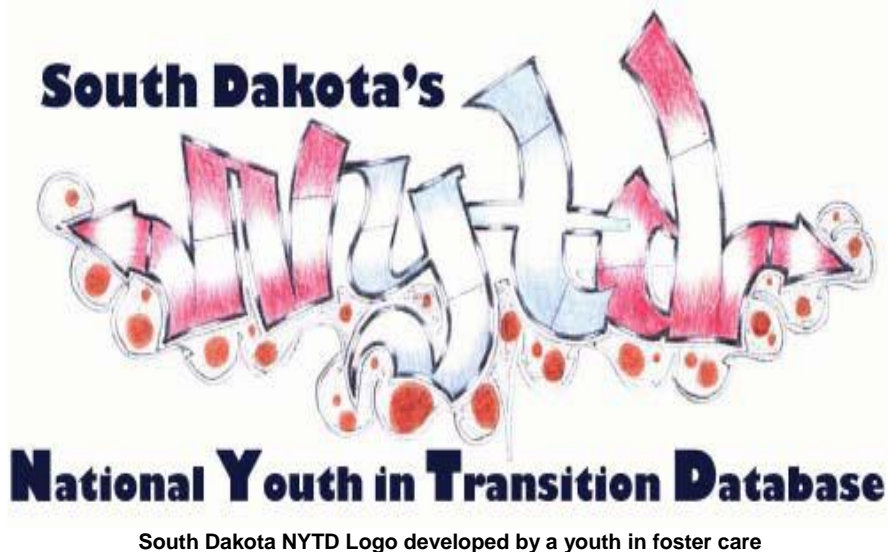
In addition to the speaking engagements, members of the Young Voices Chapters completed the development of a CPS training video to share their experiences with new CPS staff about what it is like to grow up in foster care, the struggles they faced and the assistance they need to successfully transition to adulthood. Young Voices members have also been involved in projects for the recruitment of foster families for CPS.

From July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, over 287 youth attended Young Voices Meetings in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, and Mitchell. The CRPs host monthly meetings with Young Voices in these areas. During each Young Voices Meeting, an educational component is shared, such as ILS services; a landlord presented steps to rent an apartment; a veterinarian shared information on his career and the education needed; Toastmaster presented on how to speak in front of others and to advocate for yourself; tours of post-secondary schools; a representative from Job Corps presented on education and career opportunities; an attorney spoke her career and shared her story about growing in and out of the child welfare system; an outside speaker

discussed being under the influence and youth wore a DUI goggles and attempted to walk; Safe Harbor presented on advocating for oneself; a States Attorney presented on laws when they turn 18 and consequences of drinking; South Dakota Housing talked about Section 8; NYTD data; and being homeless.

CPS has submitted the NYTD data to the Administration for Children and Families. Based on the review of the 2017A data file submitted, ACF has determined the State is in compliance with NYTD requirements for the period ending March 31, 2017 along with the other submissions with NYTD since 2010. Of the 17 year olds surveyed, 60 out of 63 surveys were completed. For 2017A, the response rate was 96 percent and for 2017B it was 89 percent. Based on the recent data, CPS intends to continue using the same techniques during the next year to encourage and obtain youth's participation with the NYTD survey.

- II. National Youth in Transition Database; Describe how the state, since the 2015-2019 CFSP submission, has informed partners, tribes, courts and other stakeholders about NYTD data and involved them in the analysis of the results of the NYTD data collection or NYTD Assessment Review. Describe how the state has used these data and any other available data in consultation with youth and other stakeholders to improve service delivery in the last year.**



In South Dakota, the Division of Child Protection Services has informed a variety of stakeholders concerning the NYTD data. Young Voices has provided the NYTD data in their presentations so others are aware of the information. The following provides details on meetings with stakeholders and NYTD information shared:

- In June 2018, Young Voices members presented the NYTD data at the 2018 Teen Conference. NYTD presentation posters were displayed at the conference to share the NYTD data.
- In May 2018, the NYTD data was shared during the Supervisor and Management Team Meeting and with the Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Meeting.
- In February .2018, Young Voices presented NYTD data and their stories to the South Dakota Association of Youth Care Providers and South Dakota Legislators in Pierre.
- In October 2017 and April 2018, workshops were in held of four areas of the state (Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen and Pierre). Young Voices members presented the NYTD data to the youth.

- In June 2017 and November 2017, Young Voice's members presented the NYTD data with the ILS Workgroup Meeting.
- In June 2017, Young Voices presented to the Department of Labor and Regulation, South Dakota Youth employment Services.
- In June 2017, Young Voices presented to the council of Juvenile Services.

### **III. Report activities performed since the 2015-2019 CFSP submission and planned for FY 2018 to:**

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

The following are the goals and objectives to be achieved by the Independent Living Services Program for eligible youth.

**Goal 1:** Youth are able to be employed after transitioning from foster care.

**Objective 1:** Increase youths' employability skills.

**Intervention 1:** Provide employment skills training at Regional Workshops and Young Voices meetings.

**Benchmarks: End of Year 1:** Training on employment is established as an agenda item at least annually at the meetings.

The CRPs continue to work with youth individually to enhance their skills with mock interviews and developing a resume. Young Voices scheduled two meetings in March 2018 and August 2018 focusing on career planning and job searching. In July 2017, at the ILS Workgroup Meeting the Department of Labor and Regulation Program Specialist discussed job interviewing and employment opportunities for youth. During the 2018 Teen Conference, the Department of Labor and Regulation presented a mock interview and career opportunities information to the youth who attended the conference.

**Intervention 2:** Collaborate with Group and Residential providers to provide youth with more work related experiences.

**Benchmark: End of Year 1:** CPS and Group and Residential providers have established a plan to study the issue.

In May 2017, the Group Care/Residential Treatment/Alternative Services Program Specialist discussed the ILS Five Year Plan at the South Dakota Youth Care Provider Meeting to encourage employment and job skills opportunities for youth. ILS information and Department of Labor and Regulation brochures on career opportunities were shared.

Youth employment is an area which is discussed at the ILS meetings with youth and others who are part of the meeting. During the meeting, the meeting participants brainstorm ideas to work together on how a youth would have the opportunity to work, even if the youth can volunteer or work in the placement agency.

In January 2018, an ILS survey was sent to the facilities to gather information on education and job opportunities. The survey results are shared throughout this report.

Employment opportunities within the facilities depend on the youth and the structure of the services a facility is designed to provide. While the goal is to give all youth employment training

and related activities, it may not be possible due to at-risk youth and behaviors. In 2018 the ILS Survey which was completed by the facilities showed the following results concerning employment:

- There were 19 facilities (86 percent) of the 22 facilities reporting during the 2018 reporting period indicated they assist youth with developing job skills. In 2016, there were a total of 10 facilities out of 11 facilities or 90 percent which indicated they did provide job training. While the 2018 results show a decrease, there are more facilities participating in the survey and only three of the facilities indicated they did not provide job skills training.
- There has been an increase of employment training within the facility. There were 16 facilities or 72 percent from 2016 which is a 9 percent increase from 2016.
- Another increase was the amount of youth working outside of the facility. There was a 5 percent increase in facilities providing youth with employment opportunities which are 19 facilities or 86 percent allowing youth to work in the community. The facilities report a total of 150 youth working in the communities at the time of the 2018 survey. In 2016 for youth working outside of the facilities, there were nine facilities or 82 percent which would allow youth to work in the community. This was three facilities with a total of 56 youth.
- Transportation is an essential factor for youth employment. There was no change in the number of facilities. There are 18 facilities or 82 percent which transport youth to work. This percentage is the same as the 2016 survey.

<b>Types of Work Youth Participate in the Community 2018*</b>		
<b>Total Number of Facilities</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Facilities Reporting</b>	<b>Type of Work</b>
17	89.47 %	Fast Food
7	38.84%	Office

8	42.11%	Maintenance
7	36.84%	Cleaning
6	31.58%	Lawn
2	10.53%	Computer
2	10.53%	Medical
10	52.63%	Retail
*19 Respondents 3 Skipped		

Types of Work in the Facility 2018*		
Total Number of Facilities	Percentage of Total Facilities Reporting	Type of Work
13	76.47 %	Cafeteria
4	25.53%	Office

8	47.06 %	Maintenance
16	94.12%	Cleaning
0	0%	Lawn
0	0%	Computer
*17 Respondents 5 Skipped		

**Benchmark: End of Year 2:** Recommendations to increase opportunities for youth are made and implemented.

**Intervention 3:** Collaborate with the Department of Labor and Regulation through the Youth Council to develop strategies to improve employability opportunities for youth.

**Benchmark:** The Youth Council was established in 2014.

In June 2017 and September 2017, meetings were held with the Youth Council. The Youth Council is called the South Dakota Employment Services (SDYES). The following are highlights from the meetings:

- The Department of Labor and Regulation spoke on youth and young adults from 16 – 24 years old in the labor force is at a significant higher rate compared to the national level and the educational attainment of young adults. For South Dakota the rate is 14.8 percent and the national rate is 13.3 percent.
- The Department of Labor and Regulation shared the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program overview. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training and support services to succeed in the labor market, and to match employers with the skilled workers they need. The Department of Labor and Regulation can provide 25 percent of funding to WIOA to in-school youth from 14-18 and 75 percent to WIOA out-of-school youth 16-24.
- The Department of Corrections presented on Juvenile Court Records.
- Information was shared about Job Corps. A person can be eligible for Job Corps if the person is 16 to 24, meets eligibility requirements, is a U.S. citizen, committed to improve one's education and future, and needs job skills training, education, counseling or related assistance to help get started on a career pathway.
- Information was shared on what it is like for a person living in poverty and knowledge on how to assist those living in poverty makes changes. Information was shared from the Dr. Donna Beegle presentation.
- In June, 2017, three Young Voices members presented NYTD and services with the ILS Program to South Dakota Youth Employment Services.

**Goal 2:** Youth will obtain a high school diploma or GED.

**Objective 1:** Enhance the process for monitoring youths' high school credits.

**Intervention 1:** Implement educational assessment screens in FACIS that include total number of credits.

CPS provides assistance to youth while in care in the following ways:

- The ILS Meetings are used to provide opportunities to discuss and assist youth with meeting their education needs and graduating on time. The focus of the meetings is to plan early so if there is an issue with a class or credits the FSS and school can work together on resolution. The number of credits is encoded in FACIS to keep track of the school credits. At the meetings, important people the youth would like to attend are invited to assist with the planning for the youth to be independent. Identifying a school contact such as a school counselor is emphasized to participate in the meetings. This has assisted youth in ensuring the educational components are covered and the number of achieved school credits, and the number credits needed to graduate are identified.
- When a youth moves from one residential/group care facility to another facility, a priority goal is to make sure the youth's records are transferred with the youth.
- Each facility has a program for career goal setting and exploration. The facilities do encourage youth to attend a post-secondary institution. Youth may have a careers course that they take at some facilities. These courses focus on career development and skills needed for a future career. Facilities are using specific career guidance assessments to assist youth with their future career choice. Facilities are also either bringing post-secondary programs into the facilities for career development or the youth are taken to post-secondary schools for tours. Youth do have access to SDMyLife, a career exploration program which provides youth the opportunity to develop their personal learning plans for their future. Some facilities specifically identified an individual or case manager who will meet with youth to develop personal learning plans and educational goals. The CRP also works with youth with SDMyLife and to promote their interest in post-secondary schools.
- Each facility provides youth time to work on their courses and to support youth with the tools needed to complete their school work so they may complete their education in a timely manner in order to graduate with their peers. Each facility has identified designated time for studying.

In 2017, the Group Care/Residential Treatment/Alternative Services Program Specialist discussed the ILS Five-Year Plan at the South Dakota Youth Care Provider Meeting to encourage facilities to assist youth to complete their high school diploma. At the meeting, the NYTD data was shared including data on the number of youth who received their high school diploma or GED at age 19 and 21.

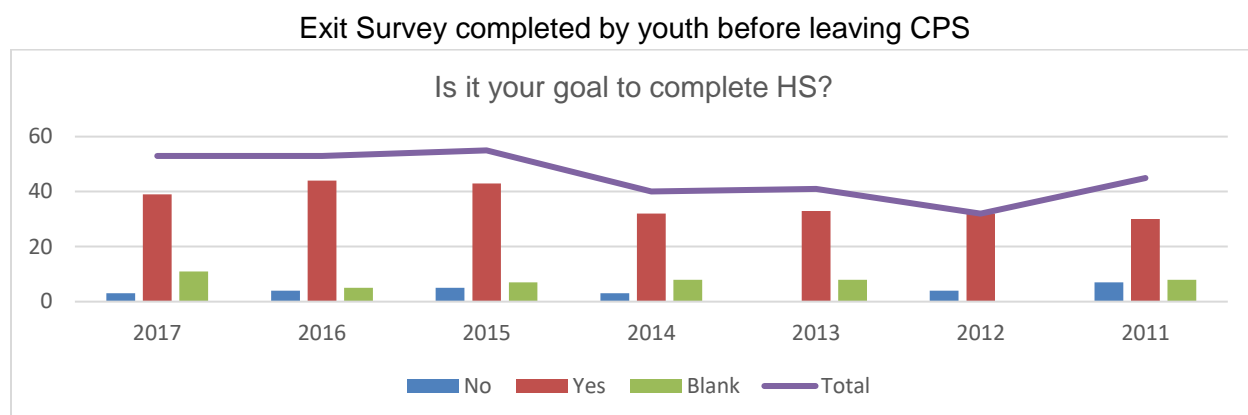
The following is a highlight about a youth from the CRPs for staying in school:

A youth, recently turned 18, lives at McCrossan Independent Living Preparation Apartments. He has decided to remain at McCrossan until he graduates. He is currently working Arby's and has worked regularly since moving to McCrossan IL. He has saved money to purchase a car and paid it in full. While at McCrossan, he participated in cross country and track. The youth is interested in attending a post-secondary school to pursue a career in Architecture and recently toured South Dakota State University with his CRP.

Education within the facilities depends on the youth. While some youth can adapt to any situation, others may be more involved and study within the facility with a tutor. The facilities can use many programs for educational support. Youth can participate in programs offered in the facility, Young Voices Meetings, ILS Workshops, and the teen conference.

The following are results from the facility survey concerning education:

- In 2018, there was an increase of nine percent or 16 facilities providing internet access to youth. There were 14 facilities, or 64 percent provide youth have internet access in the 2016 survey there was six facilities or 55 percent.
- The facilities have reported an increase, by 9 percent, in the number of facilities providing study times. 20 facilities or 91 percent have designated study times for youth.
- There was a decrease of 5 percent of facilities offering tutors. Of the 22 facilities, 17 facilities or 77 percent provide youth with tutors.



Many youths do set the goal of graduating from high school. According to the 2017 Exit Survey data, 39 youth or 74 percent of youth do want to complete high school. Three youth or five percent did not want to graduate from school and 11 youth or 21 percent did not answer the question.

**Benchmark: End of Year 1:** Assessment screen is implemented.

FACIS requires the high school credits to be added to the education screen. During the *Age 16* and *Age 17 Planning Meetings*, the high school transcript and credits are reviewed so everyone at the meeting can work together to assist the youth in working toward a high school diploma.

**Intervention 2:** Establish procedures for reviewing the status of credits at *Age 16* and *Age 17 Meetings* and include action steps within the case plan to address any issues.

**Benchmark: End of Year 1:** Procedure implemented.

**Objective 2:** Address barriers affecting youths' ability to obtain credits needed for graduation.

**Intervention:** Collaborate with the Group and Residential providers and Department of Education to assess the barriers limiting youth's ability to obtain the credits required to graduate from high school and develop solutions to addressing the barriers.

**Benchmark: End of Year 1:** Assessment of barriers completed.

**End of Year 2:** Recommendations developed and implemented.

The Department of Education assigned a staff person to work with CPS on educational issues with youth in foster care in response to the Every Student Succeeds Act. CPS continues to collaborate with Department of Education to improve the education of youth in foster care. A representative from the Department of Education is also a member of the ILS Workgroup.

The ILS Program Specialist has been incorporating components of Continuous Quality Improvement in the ILS Meetings to address barriers to youth's ability to obtain the required credits to graduate from high school. An important aspect of the meetings is to know where youth are with credits and how many credits are needed to graduate. Addressing these issues early by working with FSS, CRP, youth and school are important for the youth to be able to receive their high school diploma before leaving CPS custody.

In 2017, the Group Care/Residential Treatment/Alternative Services Program Specialist discussed the ILS Five Year Plan with the Group and Residential Provider Meeting and discussed the importance for youth to graduate on time.

**IV. Provide information on how the state has improved NYTD data collection, based on the plan outlined in the 2015-2019 CFSP or NYTD Assessment Review. States are reminded that information related to NYTD can be viewed in “snap shot” format on the NYTD portal. While the “snap shot” only provides an overview of the NYTD data, it can be a resource to talk with youth, providers, the courts, and other stakeholders about services and outcomes of youth transitioning out of foster care.**

South Dakota will continue to collect high quality NYTD data with FACIS. The goal is to have an information system which provides effective case management and a supervisory management tool which meets federal requirements including the Federal Child and Family Services Review, federal Adoption and Foster Care Automated Reporting System (AFCARS), and the Chafee NYTD. The state continues to develop functions in the system to support federal requirements and policy changes. Staff modules and compliance reports were enhanced to assist staff with monitoring, tracking tasks related to youth in NYTD baseline and to assure youth needing to complete a NYTD survey can be located to complete the survey. The CRPs have access to FACIS for cases assigned to them. The CRPs have access to the compliance report, which assists with meeting the NYTD requirements.

The NYTD data has been collected since October 1, 2010 to present. The data has revealed the following:

**NYTD Questions: Currently are you employed full time? Currently are employed part-time?**

“Currently are you employed full time? Currently are employed part-time?”

Age	Employed (Full-Time)			Employed (Part-Time)			Total Surveyed
	2016 to September 2017			2016 to September 2017			2016 to September 2017
17	Yes	5	8%	Yes	19	30%	62
	No	55	87%	No	41	65%	
	Declined to Answer	0	0%	Declined to Answer	0	0%	
	Runaway	2	3 %	Runaway	2	3%	
	Total	63		Total	63		

#### Action Steps:

1. Continue to work with youth on potential career opportunities using SDMyLife.
2. Develop employability skills for youth at workshops and trainings.
3. Encourage youth to seek employment to develop employability skills.
4. Encourage youth to attend a post-secondary (either a Technical Institute or a University) through the teen conferences, ILS Workshops, Young Voices, and campus visits.
5. Collaborate with Department of Labor and Regulation and with the Youth Council to assist the council in recommending youth employment and training policy and establishing linkages with other organizations serving youth.
6. During the *Age 16 and Age 17 Planning Meetings*, the CRPs will encourage youth to be employed, while the youth is in care and stress the importance of not only receiving a job but also keeping the job.

The CRPs continue to work with youth with CPS and BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies regarding career opportunities using SDMyLife with the youth to build on the youth's resume, search for jobs and assist the youth with job interviews. At the 2018 Teen Conference, Department of Labor and Regulation presented a Mock Interview showing appropriate and inappropriate interview techniques. During the July 2017 ILS Workgroup meeting, the Department of Labor and Regulation Program Specialist presented to members and youth about job opportunities and other resources available to the youth in care and as they leave custody.

From July 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018, the CRPs provided 48 campus tours to youth in the state to encourage youth to attend a post-secondary school. At the 2018 Teen Conference, 84 youth toured South Dakota School of Mines and Technology campus to encourage youth to attend a post-secondary school in the future. One of the purposes of having the conference on a post-secondary campus is for youth to have an idea what it would be like to live on campus for the week and to go on to school. During the *Age 16 and Age 17 Planning Meetings*, the CRPs and FSSs encourage youth to be employed and to keep their job. One of the incentives for the ILS starter kit is maintaining a job for at least 6 months or 2 summers.

In June 2017 and September 2017, there were meetings held with the Youth Council with the Department of Labor and Regulation. The Council discussed a change with WIOA (Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act) funding. The focus was to increase the out-of-school youth funding. Seventy-five percent of the funding will focus on out-of-school youth and 25 percent will be for youth in school. The ILS Program Specialist will continue to be a member of Youth Committee and collaborate with Department of Labor and Regulation on recommendations for youth in foster care.

In September 2017, the ILS Program Specialist sent CPS Supervisors, Regional Managers, and BIA/Tribal Child Welfare Agencies information about South Dakota Job Corps and an updated contact list for the Job Corps. The information has been helpful to increase awareness with staff and to promote career opportunities for youth.

During the *Age 16, Age 17 and Exit/Transitional Planning Meetings*, the FSS and CRP continue to encourage youth to be employed. One of the purposes of the meetings is for all the important people to be involved in the meetings to discuss employment options for the youth and youth who are employed to continue to maintain their job. The ILS Program Specialist is participating in some of the meetings to provide guidance to staff.

Facilities are encouraged to provide youth with job opportunities in the community or in their facility. There is one facility which provides a community-based service delivery program. This facility provides employment and job shadowing opportunities through partnerships with the school districts, Department of Labor and Regulation, WIA, and similar programming. Youth work within the facility to learn independent living skills and to have responsibility. While it would be ideal for youth to work outside of the facility, in some situations, it just is not possible because of individual needs and security concerns. CPS will continue to promote employment opportunities for youth in the facilities. The more training youth receive, while in placement, the more independent and successful the youth will be in the future. CPS believes this is a promising practice for facilities to incorporate youth employment training and independent living skills in their program.

The following is a highlight from the CRP:

The CRP has been working with a youth on transitioning out of care. The youth completed high school and is enrolled to start school in the fall at Western Dakota Tech majoring in the Surgical Technician program. The youth was accepted to New Alternatives and is now living in her own apartment. The youth has maintained employment for the summer and continues to work full time at a restaurant.

**NYTD Question: Currently are you on Medicaid?**

"Currently, are you on Medicaid?"		
Age	2016 to September 2017	Total Surveyed

17	Yes	51	82%		62
	No	3	5%		
	Don't Know	6	10%		
	Declined to Answer	0	0%		
	Runaway	2	3 %		
	Total	63			

### Action Steps:

1. Develop youth's knowledge about Medicaid and Medicaid Services through the Workshops, *Age 16, Age 17 Planning Meetings* and *Exit/Transitional Meetings*.
2. Develop presentations at ILS Workgroup meetings concerning the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program.
3. Have resources available at the meetings for youth which explain the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program and service qualifications.
4. Continue to educate youth so they know Medicaid can continue until the age of 26.
5. Continue to collaborate with Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program.

During the *Age 16, Age 17, and Exit/Transitional Meetings*, the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program is presented so youth are aware of the program and the youth know they can receive coverage up to the age of 26. During the fall of 2017 ILS Workgroup Meeting and the 2018 Teen Conference, the Former Foster Care Medical Program Specialist presented to the groups and answered questions on the program. The focus of this presentation is to inform youth of the Medicaid coverage so the youth have a better understanding of the program and to know who to contact in the state if the youth have questions. The Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program Specialist sends a letter and Medical Assistance Recipient Handbook to the youth when the youth enters the program to provide information about the coverage. The CRPs and the ILS Program Specialist continue to communicate with the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program to assist youth maintaining their eligibility and awareness of the program up to the age of 26.

**NYTD Question: In the past two years, did you refer yourself, or had someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling?**

"In the past two years, did you refer yourself, or had someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling?"		
Age	2016 to September 2017	Total Surveyed

17	Yes	21	33%		62
	No	39	62%		
	Declined to Answer	0	0%		
	Runaway	2	3 %		
	Total	63			

**Action Steps:**

1. Educate youth concerning alcohol and drug abuse through workshops and trainings.
2. Develop presentations for youth focused on preventing alcohol and drug use.
3. Educate youth to know what resources are available to assist with alcohol and drug services.

During each ILS Workshop, alcohol and drug prevention information is presented; youth are aware of the dangers and concerns which are associated with substance abuse. According to the *2016 Annual South Dakota Crash Report*, Young drivers are involved in more crashes than any other age group. In reported crashes, 13 percent of the drivers were under 20 years. Age of drivers involved in fatal and injury crashes follow the pattern of drivers in all crashes. Those drivers under 25 represent 25 percent of the licensed drivers involved in fatal crashes and 29 percent of the drivers in injury crashes. According to the *South Dakota 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 20.1 percent of the youth in 12<sup>th</sup> grade said they had ridden one or more times during the past 30 days in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol. Also, there were 7.9 percent of the students who drove a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days when they were drinking alcohol one or more times. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is conducted every two years in South Dakota. A random sampling of all public, private, and Bureau of Indian Education schools containing any student in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 is eligible to be selected for inclusion in the survey. South Dakota passed the Social Host Law 163, which states no person acting as a social host may knowingly permit any person 18, 19 or 20 to illegally consume any alcoholic beverages. The ILS Program will continue to educate the youth on dangers of using alcohol and drugs.

**NYTD Question: "In the past two years, were you homeless at any time?"**

"In the past two years, were you homeless at any time?"				
Age	2016 to September 2017			Total Surveyed
17	Yes	59	94%	62

No	1	2%
Declined to Answer	0	0%
Runaway	2	3 %
Total	63	

#### Action Steps:

1. Educate youth on services available to them which they may be eligible for concerning housing at workshops and trainings.
2. Provide service information at Planning Meetings and *Exit Meetings*.
3. Encourage Youth/Foster Parent relationships to include potential housing resources after a youth has transitioned from foster care.
4. Educate youth the importance of going to a post-secondary school to further their education.
5. Encourage youth to attend post-secondary institutions which provide campus housing.
6. Provide budget and finance training to youth at workshops and trainings.

The FSSs and CRPs continue to educate youth on resources available through ILS and in the community to assist youth to be self-sufficient. A budget component was incorporated to be a part of each of the ILS Workshop agendas, so youth are provided additional information concerning budgeting. The CRPs also work with the youth on an individual basis with budgeting along with using the starter kit to assist youth with budgeting for their needs when they are independent.

The contract Independent Living Preparation Programs are required to educate youth on Public Housing assistance and assist youth to register for the program in the area youth would like to live. The ILS Program will continue to educate youth on the importance of attending a post-secondary school to complete their education so they can provide for their future. The teen conference and ILS Workshops assist youth to become knowledgeable about post-secondary training and educational institutions. The conference is held at a college or technical institute campus setting so youth have an opportunity to experience and gain knowledge of independent living skills and what it would be like to stay in the dorms. The ILS Workshops sessions focus on the different colleges and technical institutes in the state. The ILS Workgroup also focuses activities and presentations on post-secondary education to educate youth on the importance of continuing their education.

The ILS Program Specialist is a member of the South Dakota Homeless Consortium and the Youth Committee Workgroup. The consortium will be submitting another application for the Homelessness Demonstration Program in 2019. The application would assist to develop and execute a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness in the state. This next year, the consortium will be working to develop a committee with youth to address homelessness in the state and to assist with the application. In 2016, South Dakota did apply for the Homelessness Demonstration Program, but was not one of the states funded. The Housing Youth Council will continue to meet to develop strategies and future opportunities to address youth homelessness.

South Dakota Coordinated Entry System Development. During the summit, the Housing Youth Committee for the Homeless Consortium created a survey to gain information around the state to

see what the services are for runaway and homeless youth. The survey was used to gather information: on the services, where gaps may be in services and better understanding of the needs across the state.

**NYTD Question: “Currently is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker to whom you can go to for advice or emotional support”**

“Currently, is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker to whom you can go to for advice or emotional support?”				
Age	2016 to September 2017			Total Surveyed
17	Yes	59	94%	62
	No	1	2%	
	Declined to Answer	0	0%	
	Runaway	2	3 %	
	Total	63		

#### Action Steps:

1. During the *Age 16* and *Age 17 Planning Meetings*, encourage youth to invite important people to the meetings to continue to be a support to the youth.
2. Encourage youth to have a mentor to be a part of their life while in custody.
3. Encourage youth to be involved in Young Voices and for Young Voices to speak to foster parents to encourage them to have older youth in their homes.

The *Age 16*, *Age 17* and *Exit/Transitional Planning Meetings* encourage youth to invite important people to the meetings to assist youth to plan for their future. CPS continues to encourage youth to have a mentor, while in custody. Twenty youth were involved from CPS with the USucceed Mentoring Program in Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties. There is an incentive in the starter kit for youth to be involved with a mentor.

In 2016, one of Young Voices goals was to build on connections. Young Voices developed a connection sheet which was incorporated in the case plan. Adding this information to the case plan will assist to strengthen the connection piece with children and youth. Young Voices developed *What I want My Worker to Know: About Who is Important to Me*. This form has been added to FACIS and has been incorporated to be used with children and youth in CPS custody at an early age to build on.

The following is a highlight from a youth on positive connections with the foster parents:

The youth is currently a senior in high school. He has lived in his current foster home for almost nine years. Due to the stability and family, he has found in his foster home, he decided to stay in his foster home until he graduates from high school. The youth will be 19 when he graduates. He is an active member in the community and at school. He has found great success on the football field. He was also nominated for Homecoming Royalty this year which was very exciting for him. During the summer he is a lifeguard at the local swimming pool.

**V. Involve the public and private sectors in helping adolescents in foster care achieve independence (section 477(b)(2)(D) of the Act).**

The following provides information on collaborative and coordinated efforts which have taken place during the reporting period to involve the public and private sectors in helping adolescents in foster care achieve independence. These same activities will continue during FFY17.

**Department of Labor and Regulation, South Dakota Youth Employment Services:**

The ILS Program Specialist met with the Department of Labor and Regulation Youth Council in June 2017 and September 2017. The ILS Program Specialist will continue to serve on the established SDYES, as a subgroup of the South Dakota Workforce Development Council (WDC). The SDYES subgroup will be an advisory entity offering perspectives from CPS and other organizations to the Department of Labor and Regulation and the WDC concerning youth policy to assist the WDC. The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) passed Congress and reauthorizes the current Workforce Investment Act. Under WIOA, 75 percent of the youth funds must be spent on out-of-school youth, not in the K-12 school system and 25 percent of the funds can be spent on in-school youth.

**Department of Education – *SDMyLife*:**

The Independent Living Program will continue to collaborate with the Department of Education regarding with *SDMyLife*. The CRPs use *SDMyLife* with youth in foster care. The Department of Education provided the CRPs an updated *SDMYLIFE* Training if there is a change with the CRPs. The user-friendly interface helps users with four key career preparation activities: career matching, career exploration, post-secondary education planning, and My Portfolio development. Each of these sections can be used on its own. For instance, someone interested in exploring careers could spend days simply learning about different careers and viewing the multimedia interviews with people in those careers. Each youth in South Dakota has an account. If a youth does not know their account information, the CRP could assist. Some of the activities that the CRPs have used *SDMyLife* with youth are scholarship search, college search, matchmaker assessment, and completing a career inventory.

The Department of Education representative provides the ILS Coordinator quarterly newsletters about the Build Dakota Scholarship. The newsletter is shared with the ILS Workgroup members and BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies. Build Dakota was created to address the workforce shortage in South Dakota. The scholarships will cover the complete cost for attending any of the technical institutes within the state. As a condition of receiving the scholarship, those who accept are required to live and work in South Dakota for three years after graduation. If this requirement is not met; the scholarship is charged to a loan. A young adult would need to apply at the technical school first and then to apply for the scholarship through the following website: [www.builddakotascholarships.com](http://www.builddakotascholarships.com)

**Department of Health – Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP):**

The PREP is a collaborative effort with Department of Health, CPS and Lutheran Social Services. The overall goal of this project is to reduce teen pregnancy and STDs/HIV through intervention by increasing the knowledge and skills of youth to reduce risky behaviors and help them identify

qualities and attributes of healthy relationships between individuals and within families. CPS will continue to assure youth in foster care are able to participate in the PREP training. During this time period from October 2017 through March 3, 2018, 17 youth initiated the Reducing the Risk curriculum; 9 completed this curriculum. Two Reducing the Risk classes were facilitated, 23 youth initiated the Be Proud Be Responsible curriculum; 20 completed this curriculum. During this period, 11 adults initiated and completed the Families Talking Together curriculum. The first Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention class was facilitated, 13 youth initiated and 12 youth completed.

Lutheran Social Services purchased the Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention curriculum during this reporting period. This curriculum has a shorter time frame and focuses on substance use and associated risky decisions made while under the influence. The intention of this curriculum is to work more closely with the court system and juvenile diversion to reach juvenile offenders in several communities. Lutheran Social Services will continue to work with the evening reporting center, reception center, and shelter care programs within Sioux Falls and Rapid City in hopes of reaching the juvenile justice involved youth in each community. These programs were invited to participate in the Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention facilitator training.

In the upcoming report period, the PREP Facilitator will be working to schedule curriculum facilitation with several sites which have not participated recently. These sites include Job Corps, McCrossan Boys Ranch, and the Center for New Americans. There was a teen conference in June 2018. During the conference, the Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention curriculum was presented to 84 youth.

The first State PREP conference was held February 2 - 7, 2018. The agenda included presentation of PREP services within SD, a discussion of facilitation successes and challenges, and fidelity requirements. A trainer presented on the core training skills, using a trauma informed approach to sex education, and LGBTQ inclusion. Twenty-four facilitators attended the conference from across South Dakota. Nine facilities and four tribal agencies sent their staff to the training. The PREP program will be planning another State PREP conference with additional topics to support facilitation staff.

### **Court Improvement Program:**

The Court Improvement Program sponsored the seventh annual Children's Justice Conference September 2017. The conference is duplicated in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. The conference is a multi-disciplinary training opportunity for the state and for anyone involved with youth such as attorneys, judges, CPS staff, DOC staff, CASA, and mental health professionals.

### **Youth Transitional Impact Program:**

The Department of Social Services' Division of Behavioral Health and CPS collaborated on a program to assist youth with mental health needs. New Alternative, located in Rapid City, provides specialized mental health services, transitional housing, and support services targeted to assist the young adult with employment, independent living skills and development of community supports to enhance their chances for a successful transition to adulthood. Referrals to the transition program will be for those youth 18 or older, who have functional impairments as a result of their mental illness. The program can host a maximum of 12 young adults. In FFY 2018, there were 28 youth in the program. Eighteen of these youth were former CPS youth, one with DOC, and nine community placements. There were 15 youth who graduated from high school, one youth with a GED, two youth attending post-secondary school, and 20 youth employed.

### **South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association**

CPS and the Division of Juvenile Services under the DOC meet with the South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association, which is comprised of the directors of the intensive residential, residential and group care providers in South Dakota on a quarterly basis. In May 2017,

information on the ILS Five-Year Plan was shared with the South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association on providing more emphasis on job opportunities and for youth and for youth completing their high school education before leaving custody. In March 2018, Young Voices presented information to the South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association about Young Voices; discussed the NYTD data; the importance for youth to be employed; to complete high school; have connections; and to be able to attend the Young Voices Meetings and ILS Workshops.

### **Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI):**

The mission of JDAI is to support the juvenile justice system which ensures the safety of youth and the community, utilizes the assessment of risks, eliminates the unnecessary detention of youth, provides a safe environment for the youth held in detention, and promotes healthy youth development by providing due process and collaborative, evidenced-based interventions for youth and families.

Prior to disposition, a minor should not be held in secure detention unless:

1. The minor is alleged to have committed a delinquent offense; and
2. The objective assessment via the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) demonstrates there is a high risk for the minor to either commit another offense and/or not appear at future hearings.

South Dakota Codified Law, 26-7A-13, authorizes the court to find temporary custody for a juvenile who is at risk to harm himself or herself. However, no juvenile should be securely detained solely for self-protection unless the court, after considering the alternatives, finds that no less restrictive alternative is available. Additionally, an order detaining a juvenile for self-protection should include a specific, time-limited plan for the juvenile's release to the least restrictive environment appropriate to the juvenile's needs.

The purpose of detention following disposition is to sanction delinquent conduct or violations of probation as may be required by law or as determined appropriate by the judicial officer. The decision to detain and the length of detention should be logically related to the seriousness of the offense or violation and the juvenile's risk to community safety and should be made in the context of an articulated system of graduated responses. Detention as a sanction should also be paired with appropriate therapeutic and remedial responses aimed at correcting the behavior and building competency. Ensuring Safe and Humane Conditions in Secure Confinement  
Safe and humane conditions of confinement are one of JDAI's core requirements. Detention facilities where juveniles are held must meet federal, state and professional standards.

### **Public Housing Agencies:**

CPS educates and assists youth on HUD/Section 8 so youth can avoid being homeless. The ILS Program Specialist is a member of the South Dakota for the Homeless Consortium and on the Youth Committee. The CRPs will continue to collaborate with youth to encourage youth to apply for Public Housing in the different locations in South Dakota. From June 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018, the CRPs had 28 contacts with youth concerning HUD Section 8 Housing and registered seven youth. The CRPs invite the Public Housing Section 8 to attend Young Voices Meetings to present to the youth on how to register for the program. At the 2018 Teen Conference, a representative from Public Housing provided information on the program to 84 youth. The Public Housing Program Specialist attended the 2018 Teen Conference Community Health Fair to share housing information with 84 youth.

The Independent Living Preparation Programs will continue to assist youth to register with Public Housing in the area the youth would like to live. The following was shared with the Independent Living Preparation Programs:

- McCrossan in Sioux Falls has a HUD Section 8 Housing Specialist, from Sioux Falls Housing and Redevelopment Commission present to McCrossan residents about housing opportunities. ILPP and Group Care residents learned about the housing costs in Sioux Falls and the surrounding areas. Information was presented on the process to register for a nationwide housing voucher, local tax based housing, leases, utilities and budgeting. Information on HUD/Section 8 is presented every three months. From June 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018, there were 36 youth educated on HUD/Section 8.
- VOA discussed HUD/Section 8 to 32 youth and four youth registered with the program from June 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018.
- Abbott House Bridges discuss HUD/Section 8 Housing with the five youth in the program from June 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018. Information on HUD housing is also included in resource manual available to the youth in the program.

The ILS Program Specialist will continue to collaborate with Department of Education, McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children Program Specialist who oversees the program. South Dakota currently does not have FUP vouchers available for use.

### **Post-Secondary Schools:**

The ILS Program collaborates with post-secondary schools when planning the Teen Conference and ILS Workshops. The 2018 Teen Conference was held at a college campus in Rapid City, at the South Dakota at the School of Mines and Technology, so youth would have a chance to experience college life during the week of the conference by having the youth live in the dorm and be on campus.

### **Public and Private Sector:**

The ILS Program collaborates with the CRPs when planning the Young Voices Meetings, ILS Workshops and the teen conference. In each area, where the ILS Workshop and teen conference are held, there are local speakers who assist with presentations to reinforce the ILS skills, which will assist youth to become independent adults. The following are some examples:

- Department of Labor and Regulation presented information on career exploration, career cluster, ethics, goals, completing a job application, job retention, and information on *Ready to Work*.
- A speaker presented on *Step into Your Greatness* workshop. The presenter was part of the Disproportionate Minority Contact conference.
- Department of Labor and Regulation presented job application and interview questions.
- Lutheran Social Services Financial Resources presented on the following topics: define their financial goals, wants and needs, credit and saving, they also shared questions the youth should ask themselves when preparing to rent an apartment, shared how to track monthly expenses, and had the youth participate in a budget activity.
- Caribou Coffee owners shared their experience as employees and what Caribou looks for in an employee and what they need to know in the kitchen.
- A speaker presented on Culturally Inclusive Programming for Youth, how their Native American culture has affected his life, historical trauma, and how to make changes for the future.
- Dietician discussed nutrition, healthy eating and preparing meals.
- Speaker presented on Job Corp and opportunities available with Job Corp.
- Department of Labor and Regulation presented career clusters, career readiness and what employers are looking for in employees.

- Exercise Therapist provided information on the importance of exercising and showed different techniques when exercising.
- South Dakota Public Housing educated nine youth on Public Section 8 Housing.
- Toured the local library. The presenter explained activities and services the library can offer to the community.
- Highway Patrol Officer presented on the dangers of drug and alcohol and what could happen if a person is doing drugs or alcohol. Highway Patrol Officer with a dog from their canine program presented and demonstrated their work. Information on illegal drugs was presented as well as the use of canine for narcotics detection
- Post-secondary schools representative presented on applying for college, different majors, when to take the ACT's, when to start applying for scholarships and financial aid.
- Lutheran Social Services presented on the Mentoring program, foster parent showed how to scrap book, how to use the youth's *Life Book* when scrap booking

### **Medicaid – Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program**

The ILS Program continues to assist the *FFCMA* Program to find youth over 21 years of age and to assist young adults who are eligible for the program. The CRPs continue to educate youth over 21 years of age and provide the youth the contact information so they can register for the program. Eligibility requirements are that youth must have been in foster care under the responsibility of the State on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. There are no income limits and no resource limits. Eligibility continues from the month the youth is no longer under the responsibility of the State until the end of the month in which the youth attains age 26, as long as the youth maintains residency in South Dakota. If the youth attends an out-of-state post-secondary school, the *FFCMA* Program will continue as long as the youth intends to return to South Dakota and there are medical providers in their area who accept South Dakota Medicaid.

CPS and Division of Medical Services continue to collaborate to assist young adults from 18 up In December 2017, the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program Specialist presented at the ILS Workgroup Meeting over the Digital Dakota Network and during the 2018 Teen Conference. The information was presented so youth have a better understanding of the coverage and how to utilize it.

### **Collaboration with the Attorney General's Office to Prevent Being A Victim of Human Trafficking:**

The ILS Program collaborated with the Division of Criminal Investigation to have an investigator present on Human Trafficking and how to prevent becoming a victim of human trafficking at ILS Workgroup Meeting in July 2017.

During the 2018 Teen Conference, the Division of Criminal Investigation had an investigator present to 84 youth and 20 adults on human trafficking in South Dakota and Internet Safety. The investigator presented a power point about human trafficking; how a sexual predator tries to gain a person's trust to use this person and take one's freedom away; grooming process; using nude pictures against a person to get what they want; how to identify a sexual predator; and how to prevent being a victim of human trafficking. The presenter also presented on internet safety, how to prevent being bullied online, and steps a person can take to prevent cyber bullying.

During the 2017 Exit Survey, 50 youth or 100 percent indicated they have knowledge about preventing sex trafficking and 49 youth or 100 percent said they know what sex trafficking means. CPS has increased its efforts to inform youth about sex trafficking and the prevention of being a victim. CPS will continue to provide preventative sex trafficking information and education to youth.

**Collaboration with Lutheran Social Services, USucceed Mentoring Program:**

The Sioux Empire United Way provided funding to LSS for the USucceed Mentoring Program. The program is designed to enhance relationships for youth in foster care by linking youth with an adult volunteer mentor in the community. The mentor program is designed to help youth gain a strong relationship with a positive adult, gain practical knowledge of how employment opportunities take place in the community, and give youth confidence to pursue post-secondary education. LSS of South Dakota launched USucceed in January 2012. All mentors have undergone thorough screening and training. Mentors commit to meeting with their students at least four hours a month year round. Three core areas of programming include:

- Relationship Building: By meeting with their mentor for at least four hours per month, youth learn the importance of consistent, positive relationships. Some activities to enhance relationships include attending baseball games, eating lunch together or playing a round of mini golf.
- Independent Living: Mentors have helped youth with grocery shopping, learning how to prepare a meal and have discussed employment opportunities. There is also a focus on the importance of community service. Youth have volunteered for the Humane Society, packed sack lunches for day laborers and helped distribute food through the food bank.
- Academic Success: Youth in the program have been exposed to various careers and the importance of earning a high school diploma or GED. In their first months of involvement with the program, all youth received a graduation cap. This helped reinforce the goal of getting their degree. There has also been discussion related to the importance of higher education.

LSS provides the USucceed Mentoring Program in Lincoln and Minnehaha County. Volunteer mentors work with youth who lack adult support. Mentors and students meet at least one hour per week, working on relationship building, independent living skills, and academic success. Since July 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018, there has been 262 youth involved in the program. Of those, 55 youth were in custody with CPS.

LSS also operates a school-based mentor program where over 1,200 volunteers meet one-on-one with a student for one hour per week at school during the school day. In our annual survey, we asked our mentors if their student is in foster care or away from their family and 5.4 percent responded the student they mentor falls into this situation.

USucceed Mentoring Program estimates the numbers may be low because several students are not living with adoptive or birth parents or they have at least been temporarily removed from their home. There are also others who might not be in foster care but CPS connects with the family on a regular basis.

LSS hosts one event per month for youth to attend in addition to the one-on-one time spent with their mentor each week. At these events, LSS incorporates all three areas of programming. For example, when doing a service project for the Humane Society, youth in the program were able to hear from a local vet tech. They also heard from a representative from a local instructor who teaches in a vet tech program. This person also brought in scientific models for the youth to look at to learn more about animal anatomy. In addition, animal owners were brought in to talk about the responsibility involved in owning a pet. Youth were provided with information about potential careers related to animals and the steps needed to get to this career goal.

- VI. Coordinate services with “other federal and state programs for youth (especially transitional living programs funded under Part B of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974,) abstinence programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and**

**school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies” in accordance with section 477(b)(3)(F) of the Act**

**Independent Living Preparation Programs (ILPP):**

CPS provides financial support to youth in the three ILPP which are: Volunteers of America Dakotas, McCrossan Boys Ranch and Abbott House Bridges. The ILPP CPS contracts with do not receive funding under Part B of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

**McCrossan's Boys Ranch:**

Provides shelter and case management for male youth ages 16 to 20 to learn independent living skills and experience what it means to live on their own. Applicants must possess the ability, both mentally and physically, to complete the program and express a willingness to work with the program. The program currently has six apartments with room for 24 participants and on-site laundry facilities. The youth must attend school or be working towards their GED. McCrossan Boys Ranch also works with boys who have their diploma or GED and are trying to enroll in post-secondary education. The youth are provided with 24-hour staff support from the group care staff.

In January 2016, McCrossan Boys Ranch opened an eight -bed Transitional Living Unit. This program focuses on youth 16-18 years old who may not quite be ready for ILPP, but do not necessarily require the structure of Group Care any longer. The Transitional Unit will be a step between Group and ILPP which focuses on preparing young men for success when they move to ILPP. Youth will be eligible, if they have achieved their level three status at McCrossan or have completed another program, and are awaiting admittance to an ILPP. The Transitional Unit will fall under their Group Care license and will be staffed by one staff per eight residents.

**Volunteers of America, Dakotas:**

Volunteers of America, Dakotas provided independent living preparation services to run away, homeless and transition age youth between the ages of 16 -21 in two geographic locations in 2018: Sioux Falls and Aberdeen, SD. ILPP services in Sioux Falls are provided in an 11 unit efficiency apartment building with a staff office onsite with capacity for ten young adults. Program services in Aberdeen were provided at a community based apartment with a staff office onsite with congregate living quarters for up to four young adults from July 1, 2017 to September 1, 2017. Due to decrease in activity residential ILPP services were discontinued in Aberdeen as of September 1, 2017. The Sioux Falls location remains in operation. All utilities and internet access are included in monthly rent. Access to local phone service is available onsite; youth are responsible for the cost of cell phone and cable charges should they choose to purchase these services independently. Participants are expected to be involved in constructive activities totaling 40 hours per week as a combination of education, employment and volunteering. Aberdeen ILPP residential closed September 1, 2017.

**Abbott House, Bridges:**

The Bridges Independent Living Preparation Program started June 1, 2014. The Bridges provides housing, case management, and life skills to young people from ages 16 – 23. Participants in Bridges rent an apartment, in a duplex, attached to a therapeutic foster home. The program provides a furnished apartment with a kitchen, living area, bathroom and onsite laundry facilities. Residents are required to obtain employment and pay 30 percent of their income per month, up to \$200, for rent. Residents also receive a \$50 stipend per week for a food allowance as long as program expectations are followed. Residents are expected to be involved in constructive activities at least 40 hours per week. A program staff person meets with youth weekly and as needed with each resident for case planning, budgeting, etc. The foster parents of the Bridges Therapeutic Foster Care Program are onsite and available for additional support and guidance.

**Specialized Independent Living Services:**

CPS provides Independent Living Services for youth in foster care with Abbott House-Bridges, Volunteers of America, Dakotas, and McCrossan. The following data provides information about youth served by the ILPPs from June 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018.

Agency		Bridges	VOA	McCrossan
	DSS	5	7	13
	DOC		9	24
	BIA		0	1
	Other		16	8
	<b>Total</b>		40	
Gender		Bridges	VOA	McCrossan
	Male	0	12	36
	Female	5	20	0
	Transgender			0
Ages		Bridges	VOA	McCrossan
	19-20	0	4	4
	18 yrs.	4	11	12
	17 yrs.	1	12	20
	16 yrs.	0	5	0
Education		Bridges	VOA	McCrossan
	GED	0	0	0
	Pursuing GED	0	1	0
	High School Diploma completed while in care	2	2	10
	College (currently enrolled)	1	1	3
Employment	Complete GED or Diploma prior to intake	3	11	0
		Bridges	VOA	McCrossan
	60 days out of 90 days	4	19	36
	3 weeks after moving to TLP		16	36
Human Trafficking	16-20	5	32	36
HUD / Section 8 Housing	16-20	5 – educated 0 - registered	32 – educated 4 registered	36 – educated 0 - registered

The DOC, Division of Juvenile Corrections provides their own funding to assist youth needing independent living preparation and training, transitional services and start-up kit assistance as youth enter independent living. Youth which are pregnant in the custody of DOC and placed at the New Start Program would be eligible for this funding with DOC.

CPS collaborates with the Department of Health with the PREP. The overall goal of this project is to reduce teen pregnancy, abstinence, contraception to prevent pregnancy and STDs/HIV through intervention to increase the knowledge and skills of youth to reduce risky behaviors and help them identify qualities and attributes of healthy relationships between individuals and within families.

The Independent Living Preparation Programs has educated 73 youth and four youth have registered with Public Housing. From July 1, 2017 to June 1, 2018, the CRPs provided information on Public Housing to 28 youth. The Independent Living Preparation Program and CRPs will continue to educate and assist youth to register with Public Housing in the area the youth would like to live. Chafee funding for housing assistance from July 1, 2017 to June 1, 2018, for youth over the age of 18 still living with their foster parents, living on their own, renting from a landlord or renting an apartment within the Independent Living Preparation Program was \$37,062.19. To receive “room and board” youth must have exited foster care because they attained 18 years of age and have not yet reached their 21st birthday. Youth need to complete an individual Independent Living Plan and submit a housing application for prior approval before funds can be expended. The five CRPs collaborate with the local housing programs in the different areas of the state so youth transitioning from foster care receive low-cost housing. Some areas of the state like

Sioux Falls and Rapid City which are the larger urban areas have a longer waiting list to receive the low-cost housing.

The following is an example on the ILS program housing assistance to assist a youth:

The youth has been in the community. He has traveled between Rapid City and Sioux Falls for several months trying to establish a plan. The state has helped him by providing him stays at New Alternatives and housing. He recently has been able to access several community resources in Rapid City and has kept a full time job. The youth has established stable housing and employment and stays in contact with his CRP for support.

The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation has 16 local offices throughout the state with several itinerant sites offering employment services to job seekers. At these local offices, individuals can visit with an Employment Specialist regarding part-time or full-time work. Employment Specialists can work one-on-one with job seekers to offer career planning, job search assistance, National Career Readiness Certification, application assistance and resume preparation. Each local office provides Job Search Assistance Program classes to assist individuals in securing employment. This program covers an array of job search techniques from developing job leads, interviewing techniques, and follow-up.

Youth in foster care preparing for transition; youth who have transitioned out of foster care; or youth receiving ETV funds may visit with employment specialists regarding more in-depth services through the WIOA. WIOA is an employment-training program housed at the Department of Labor and Regulation local offices. WIOA offers intensive case management leading to employment. Individualized services through WIOA may include paid work experiences, on-the-job training, tuition assistance and much more.

Youth have access to the Department of Labor and Regulation website, [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org), which offers job search opportunities, labor market information, career interest assessments, Reality Check budgeting and other self-service activities. As funding allows, the WIOA Program may offer youth tuition assistance up to for a WIOA approved program of study which will lead to a degree or certificate within two years from the beginning of a training program.

The Department of Labor and Regulation recognizes the importance of reaching out to youth in foster care, especially as they begin to transition to the adult world. Local office staff receives updated contact information from the CRPs and updates on changes and challenges with services for youth in foster care. At the local level, field offices are encouraged to participate in planning sessions and delivery of services for youth

Department of Labor and Regulation has nine sub-grantee providers of the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Program with services available throughout the state. AEL is for individuals over 18 and offers instructional courses to:

- Assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency.
- Assist adults who are parents to obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children.
- Assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education.
- Prepare individuals for post-secondary success.

The AEL program emphasizes skills such as reading, writing, numeracy, financial literacy, English language competency, problem-solving, health literacy and family literacy. These skills bolster workplace readiness, transitions to post-secondary education and a higher quality of life for South Dakotans. The Department of Labor and Regulation will continue to collaborate with the CPS to provide opportunities for youth in foster care to participate in new programs.

## **VII. Coordination Between Programs When a Youth Runs from Foster Care.**

In June 2017, the ILS Program Specialist attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeless Summit which was dedicated to South Dakota Coordinated Entry System Development. South Dakota Housing Development Authority has contracted with Corporation for Supportive Housing for assistance in creating South Dakota Coordinated Entry System. The information provided by Corporation for Supportive Housing for the South Dakota System Map detailing how people currently flow through the homeless system in South Dakota. The Senior Program Manager for Corporation for Supportive Housing will return to South Dakota to continue the process of developing South Dakota's coordinated entry system statewide. The South Dakota Homeless Consortium members will assist in the creation, implementation, and success of the South Dakota Coordinated Entry System. The system changes will provide improved outcomes for those whom experience homelessness in the state.

During the summit, the SDYES with the Homeless Consortium created a survey to gain information around the state to see what the services are for runaway and homeless youth. This is a chance to gather information on what there is for services, where gaps may be in services and get an overall idea of what is needed.

## **VIII. Collaborate with governmental or other community entities to promote a safe transition to independence by reducing the risk to youth and young adults in the child welfare system will be victims of human trafficking.**

The ILS Program collaborated with the Attorney General's office and the Division of Criminal Investigations, to have a Criminal Investigator present on human trafficking in South Dakota and internet safety at the 2018 Teen Conference in June. For more information, see Section V. Involving the Public and Private Section under "Collaboration with the Attorney General Office to Prevent Being a Victim of Human Trafficking".

CPS has a policy in place which requires sex trafficking information to be shared with youth during the Transitional Exit Meeting which is held between 90 and 30 days before the youth leaves care.

## **IX. Provide specific training in support of the goals and objectives of the states' CFCPSTA and to help foster parents, relative guardians, adoptive parents, workers in group homes, and case managers understand and address the issues confronting adolescents preparing for independent living, consistent with section 477(b)(3)(D) of the Act. Such training should be incorporated into the title IV-E/IV-B training plan, but identified as pertaining to CFCPSTA, with costs allocated appropriately.**

### **Foster Parent Training:**

Foster parents, adoptive parents, staff from group care centers for minors and residential treatment facilities and FSSs who work with youth attend workshops designed to assist them to work more effectively with youth and understand the issues confronting youth as they prepare for independent living. In addition to the knowledge gained, the workshops continue to be a wonderful networking opportunity for those in attendance. With the ILS Workshops, CPS has a Three-Year Plan to focus on a variety of ILS topics that are shared. CRPs assist foster parents in teaching life skills to youth by using an Independent Living checklist and CLSA. They also provide information to foster parents on teen issues and Native American culture and provide each foster parent a current local resource list. Foster parents also participate in the *Age 16 and 17 Planning Meetings* for youth in their care. In addition, foster parents, CRPs, FSSs and staff from group care centers for minors

and residential treatment facilities work together to encourage creating and maintaining life books and helping youth develop with meaningful and positive relationships and connections. The foster parent trainings are provided at the semi-annual ILS workshops. In May 2017, Young Voices presented to the Rapid City Foster Parent Association Meeting.

#### **Youth with Special Needs:**

CPS collaborates with facilities in meeting the needs of youth with special needs. The FSS works the facilities to develop a plan for the youth with independent living depending on the youth's level of development. The Independent Living Program has collaborated with Southeast Behavioral Health and Turtle Creek to see what adjustments could be made to provide independent living skills to for youth with developmental disabilities in facilities and how we coordinate services with the facilities. Discussion about the types of services available from CPS what issues face youth in those and other group/residential programs and what can be done to assure youth receive needed ILS in facilities. The *ILS Skills Assessment Checklist* was developed to assist with this process. The checklist tool has been used to assist facilities in their work with youth. The *ILS Skills Assessment Checklist* tool will be used in addition to the case plan as a way to track youth's progress with ILS when placed in facilities and will follow them as they move from one placement to another so there is continuity in ILS services.

#### **Special Purchases:**

FSSs and CRPs request funding for special purchases related to employment, education, and youth development. Youth can request funding to purchase special clothing required for work, bus passes to and from work, funding for work related trainings and graduation items (graduation announcements, gowns, and pictures). Funding has been given to youth to improve their self-esteem (dancing classes, foreign language studies, wrestling camps, tutors and weight watcher activities). Chafee funds have paid for CRPs, foster parents and youth to travel to visit post-secondary schools. From June 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018, 20 youth received \$2,497.30 for special purchases.

CPS gave each successful youth graduating from high school and each youth who accomplished the difficult task of completing a GED a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card as a graduation gift. During the reporting period, twenty-nine youth were given \$50 gift cards as a graduation gift.

#### **X. Involve youth/young adults in the CFCPSTA, CFSP, NYTD, and other related agency efforts.**

CPS has ensured youth involvement in the Child and Family Services Plan process by creating, developing, and implementing a plan and activities for recruitment of youth. CPS Program Specialist responsible for the Chafee Grant is in a unique position of leadership within the Permanency & Well-being Workgroup. This leadership position has helped to develop and promote consistency for data integrated into the Five-Year CFSP (2015-2019). CPS used the outcomes of safety, permanency and well-being and the systemic factors as the measures for the core structure of the CFSP.

During the ILS Workgroup Meetings in 2017, the CFCPSTA, Child and Family Services Plan and Review (CFSP and CFSR) and NYTD were discussed during the meetings. Information has been shared with the ILS Workgroup so workgroup members and youth have a better understanding of this information. After sharing this information, CPS asks the ILS members and youth for their input. CPS continues to involve youth through Young Voices to receive input from them to assist with the CFCPSTA, CFSP, CFSR, and NYTD. Young Voices has presented NYTD data to many organizations in the state to spread the information about NYTD and how this data represents the youth in South Dakota.

Members of Young Voices presented information during to the following events:

- In June 2018, at the Teen Conference;
- In March.2018 and September 2017 Workshops Young Voices members presented in four areas in the state (Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Pierre and Aberdeen);
- In February.2018 at the South Dakota Association of Youth Care Providers Meeting and South Dakota Legislators Social Event in Pierre;
- In June 2017 at the ILS Workshop Meetings;
- In June 2017 at SDYES Meeting with Department of Labor and Regulation;
- In June 2017 at the Council Juvenile Service Meeting; and
- In May 2017 at the Foster Parent Association Meeting In Rapid City

**XI. Consultation with Tribes (section 477(b)(3)(G) of the Act) Provide results of the Indian tribe consultation (section 477(b)(3)(G) of the Act), specifically as it relates to determining eligibility for benefits and services and ensuring fair and equitable treatment for Indian youth in care:**

The Independent Living Program Specialist collaborates with the ICWA Program Specialist in the state office to communicate and to share information relating to the ILS program with the tribes. The ICWA Program Specialist provides this information to the appropriate contacts within the tribal areas so youth in foster care are aware of the IL services. ICWA Program Specialist acts as a liaison between the CPS and the tribes.

CPS will continue to inform the nine tribes about Education and Training Vouchers and the Chafee Foster Care Program available to eligible youth on the reservation. Special emphasis has been placed on meeting the needs of Native American youth. The Independent Living Program Specialist and ICWA Program Specialist have made each tribe aware of available services and opportunities available to Native American Youth ages 18 through 21 who were formerly in foster care under Tribal jurisdiction. In addition, financial assistance for post-secondary education and training is available to eligible tribal youth through the Educational Training Vouchers.

Native American youth in foster care with tribal child welfare agencies between the ages of 14 to 21 are invited to be involved in the Chafee Foster Care Program in the following ways:

- Attending IL Workshops
- Attending ILS Teen Conferences
- Attending the ILS Workgroup Meetings
- Medicaid eligibility for youth up to age 26 who exited foster care at 18 and was funded with IV-E funds through a state/tribal agreement.
- Financial assistance for post-secondary education and training is available to eligible tribal youth.
- CRPs supports youth who exited foster care which was under the BIA and tribal custody.
- Services provided by the Department of Labor and Regulation (job mentors, job skills, writing resumes and pre-employment education).

The ICWA Program Specialist has forwarded emails to the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies from the ILS Program Specialist related to Independent Living Services such as the teen conference, ETV Scholarship funding, ILS Workshops, and ILS Workgroup Meetings. In Independent Living Services and NYTD information was shared by the ICWA Program Specialist at the State/Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Meeting. Also written materials were shared with State/Tribal Child Welfare Consultation members about the ILS program.

CPS maintains a contract with Lutheran Social Services to provide the CRPs. The CRPs provide assistance and services to the youth in CPS custody, as well as youth with BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies. While the best way to learn life skills is by doing, some initial training and guidance can save a great deal of trouble for youth moving out on their own. Therefore, ensuring youth have exposure to various life skills, while still in foster care, is critical to the success of any transition program. The FSSs in partnership with the CRPs will ensure each young person leaving care will have the skills necessary to live independently and productively in the community. The CRP also works with youth in foster care and youth who have transitioned out of foster care. The CRPs will connection with youth in their area and will continue this process when youth transitions from CPS and/or until youth are 21 years old.

The ICWA Program Specialist has created a contact list for each of the tribes. This information has been shared with the CRPs. The CRPs use this information to make connections with the tribes regarding the Independent Living Program for services such as CLSA, ETV funds, Youth Voices, ILS Workgroup and ILS Workshop and Teen Conference. The CRPs will continue to be responsible for identifying resource and network with BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies on the reservations in their area.

Native American youth are and will continue to be involved in all aspects of the program. Special attention will be given to ensuring the Independent Living resources and CRP services are available to youth living on the reservations. The CRPs have made contact with efforts to schedule meetings with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies and make services available to assist the tribal youth in foster care.

The following chart provides information of services to youth which have been referred by BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies. CPS has not received referrals from the tribal program during this timeframe which is why no youth listed for services.

Services to Youth Referred by BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies									
Reservation	Number Youth Served	Meetings with CRP	CLSA	Received Information on the ETV Funds	Discussed or Attending the Young Voices Meeting	Job Opportunity	NYTD	ILPP Housing /	ILS Workshop
Cheyenne River Reservation	0 youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crow Creek Reservation	0 youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flandreau Reservation	0 youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Brule Reservation	0 youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Ridge Reservation	1 Youth	7	1	1	1	2	1	10	0
Rosebud Reservation	1 youth	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	1

<b>Sisseton Wahpeton</b>	2 youth	6	2	3	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Standing Rock Reservation</b>	2 youth	5	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Yankton Sioux Reservation</b>	0 youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	6 youth	21	4	6	4	2	3	11	1

#### **Efforts:**

1. Continue to work with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare agencies on the reservations through the CRPs.
2. Continue to communicate with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfares agencies on youth visits and opportunities for youth through the CRPs.
3. Continue to encourage and invite BIA and Tribal Child Welfare agencies and youth to attend the ILS Workshops, Young Voices, Teen Conference and ILS Workgroup Meetings.

At the State/Tribal Consultation Meetings in May 2017 and May 2018, the ICWA Program Specialist presented NYTD data at the State/Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Meetings. The ICWA Program Specialist also discussed the services available through the ILS Program for youth including youth in the foster care through tribal child welfare programs. The ICWA Program Specialist discussed the ILS Advisory Workgroup and told the group there is a need for more representation on the workgroup from tribal programs. The members of the group were invited to contact CPS if they were interested in participating. Tribal representatives were also sent the agenda and invitation to attend the July 2017 and November 2017 ILS Workgroup Meeting. As described earlier in this section of the APSR, the Independent Living Workgroup meets at least twice a year for planning, organizing and facilitating the regional workshops and teen conferences. Workgroup members evaluate the success of the conference, plan for the workshops and provide guidance to the IL Program Specialist for planning for independent living services. Having tribal representatives attend the ILS Workgroup Meetings would give them the opportunity to learn more about the services and provide input into program planning. One of the representatives chose to attend. Emails are sent to tribal representatives inviting them and their youth to regional workshops and the teen conference. The CRPs communicate very frequently with tribal representatives from each of the tribes as part of the services being provided to youth who are under the care of the tribal program. CPS will continue to request to have the CFCPSTA included on the agenda for upcoming State/Tribal Consultation Meeting to again encourage tribal participation in the ILS Workgroup and discuss the program services.

In SFY 2019, DSS/CPS will continue CFCPSTA program but will not be expanding to the age of 23. If youth are over 18, youth can stay in custody up to the age of 21 or until the youth graduates from high school depending upon whichever comes first.

## **XV. EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAM**

### **2019 Progress Update**

The Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services, and (DSS/CPS) is the state agency responsible for administering, supervising and overseeing the Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program. The ETV Program is set forth under Section 477 (a) (3) “to help children likely to remain in foster care until age 18 years of age prepare for and enter post-secondary training and educational institutions”.

The Division of Child Protection Services, (CPS) implements policies and procedures to ensure South Dakota provides fair and equitable treatment of recipients in the ETV Program. The State will continue to assure and oversee the expansion of equal and fair treatment for current foster youth and youth who have aged out of the foster care system.

The identified ILS Program Specialist and contact information are listed below.

Sherrie Fines-Tracy  
Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501  
605-773-3227  
Fax 605-773-6834  
[Sherrie.Fines-Tracy@state.sd.us](mailto:Sherrie.Fines-Tracy@state.sd.us)  
<http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/educationtraining.aspx>

The Division of Child Protection Services is committed to improving the participation and success of youth who have exited foster care and are participating in educational and post-secondary training programs. The authorized ETV Program will give South Dakota the financial capability to encourage and support youth in completing educational goals and/or post-secondary training programs.

The funding received from the Federal ETV Program, which is used to support post-secondary education and training costs, including the cost of living and attendance, are provided to eligible youth up to the age of 21. In accordance with the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (CFCPSTA), a youth may apply for assistance through the State's ETV Program. The level of education makes a big difference in where and how a youth will live as well as the type of employment for which a youth will qualify. It is therefore critical that youth graduate from high school or receive a GED and continue on to post-secondary education or training. CPS will use ETV funds to assist youth in making the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency.

The ILS Program Specialist administers the ETV funds and is the liaison for youth eligible for the program. The FACIS data system provides a report to ensure the total amount of educational assistance to a youth under the federal assistance program does not exceed the total cost of attendance as defined in section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The ETV data is shared, and will continue to be shared, at the ILS Workgroup Meeting. The ILS Workgroup will continue to receive education on the ETV funding and the eligibility guidelines and educate others on the program this is completed by the ILS Program Specialist. The ETV brochures are given to members of the workgroup.

South Dakota collaborates with each of the nine tribes in the state so they are aware of the ETV registration period. An email from the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program Specialist concerning the ETV funds was shared with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies in the fall of 2017, spring of 2018, and summer of 2018. The CRP contacts the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies to provide information on the ILS services and how youth can apply for the ETV funds. The CRPs assist the youth with the ETV registration and the application for the post-secondary school. The CRPs will continue to be in contact with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies about the ETV funds and ask if there are youth that would be eligible that the CRP can contact.

CPS will provide consultation to the tribes to remind the tribes with an approved IV-E plan or a title IV-E tribal and state agreement they have the option to receive directly from ACF a portion of the state's CFCPSTA and /or ETV allotment to provide services to eligible tribal youth (section 477(j) of the ACT). The Oglala Sioux Tribe and Rosebud Sioux Tribe have had a communication with CPS regarding Chafee and the ETV Programs and what an agreement might involve for their tribes. At this time, the tribes have not pursued an agreement.

### **Financial Reporting**

The amount of SFY 18 allocated ETV funds expended from July 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018 is \$48,401.00.

### **Describe the specific accomplishments and progress to establish, expand or strengthen the State's post-secondary educational assistance program to achieve the purpose of the ETV Program.**

The following are the number of youth who received the ETV funds for the period specified in the application instructions. The ETV funds paid up to \$2,500 per semester for a youth to attend post-secondary schools for the following timeframe:

July 1, 2017 to June 1, 2018

- Fall 2017 – 12 youth
- Spring 2018 – 6 youth

In the fall 2017 semester, 12 youth received the ETV funds, and of those, seven youth were new applicants. In the spring 2018 semester, six youth received the ETV funds, and of those applicants, one youth was a new applicants. The total unduplicated number of youth receiving ETV funds from July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, there were 13 youth.

CPS gave each youth graduating from college and high school or completed a GED, a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card as a graduation gift. From June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, there were 13 youth who received gift cards for high school graduation or GEDs. During the period from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, the CRPs provided 48 youth tours at post-secondary schools and at the teen conference, 84 youth received a tour at the School of Mines and Technology.

The CRPs, the ILS Program Specialist, and Department of Labor and Regulation assist youth in applying for ETV's. Youth can be linked to various resources and services for assistance through the above resources.

The ILS website has a section called *Preparing for Post-Secondary Education*. This section provides high school youth with information about preparing and assisting them for future educational activities. The site is designed to assist youth in preparing early in high school, finding and applying to a post-secondary school, and being aware of the importance of continuing their education. The site has information on:

- Applying for the ACT and/or the SAT Test;

- Researching postsecondary schools in the state (including links to State Universities in SD; SD Technical Institutes; SD Private Colleges; SD Native American Tribal Institutions; SD Public Higher Education Centers);
- Applying for admissions at the post-secondary school that one is planning to attend;
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Defining the different financial aids available (grants, scholarships, and loans).

In addition to the information above there is also the following information that is provided on the website:

- Checklist for making the most of high school.
- Getting ready for college and know what to expect compared to high school.
- Why it is important to go to college, including earning comparison for the cost of a person that has a college degree, high school diploma and a person that has dropped out of school.
- Search career options, this site will go directly to a site that includes a listing of different careers and information on earnings and other related careers.

There is information on the ILS website to help youth with challenges to be successful in post-secondary education. The website has links to South Dakota Department of Education, Special Education and Technical Assistance by Transition Services Liaison Project. The site has information on how youth can have a successful transition to earning education post-secondary education. Information includes the following: *Student with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities - As You Turn 18*; *Top Ten Tips for a Successful Transition*; *What to Pack for College*; *Special Education in High School verse Disability Service in College*, and *ACT Accommodations*. At the Age 17 Planning Meeting, information was shared with the youth informing them about post-secondary education and encouraging them to link to this ILS website. The CRPs discuss the ILS website during the meeting. The following is the link to this website:

<http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/postsecondaryresources.aspx>

The Department of Social Services collaborates with Department of Labor and Regulation. The Labor Program Specialist is a member of the ILS Workgroup to continue to provide job opportunity information to members of this group. Part of Department of Labor and Regulation's mission statement says "Our mission is to promote economic opportunity and financial security for individuals and businesses through quality, responsive and expert services; fair and equitable employment solutions; and safe and sound business practices." Job opportunity is especially important for the youth affiliated with the Chafee Program.

When youth visit one of the Department of Labor and Regulation's local offices across the state, representatives will offer one-on-one services. The CRPs work with youth to reinforce the services that are available with the Department of Labor and Regulation. The CRPs also assist youth if they need transportation to and from the Department of Labor and Regulation local offices. Youth have access to the Department of Labor and Regulation website, [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org), which offers job search opportunities, labor market information, career interest assessments, Reality Check budgeting, and other self-service activities.

The Department of Labor and Regulation has a presence on state technical institution campuses. This assists the Department of Labor and Regulation in connecting with the students that need

services. The Department of Labor and Regulation assists WIOA participants with achieving their training goals by:

- Providing labor market resources so the participant can make an informed decision on suitable training programs.
- Informing the participant on loan repayment, grants vs. loans, self-sufficiency and occupation demands, and wages.
- Assisting a participant in completing a budget to confirm they have funds to support their training goals.
- Monitoring the participant's progress.
- Helping coordinate tutoring services for a participant with the training provider as needed.
- Assisting the participant with job search and placement activities.

**Details regarding the ETV Process are as follows:**

**Recruitment plan:**

- ETV Program information and the application process is on the DSS website - <http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/educationtraining.aspx>
- ETV Program information is provided to BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies, the DOC, Lutheran Social Services, all eligible youth, CRPs, the Department of Labor and Regulation and CPS staff.

**Consult and Coordinate with Tribes:**

CPS will continue written and verbal contact with the nine BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies to discuss program issues and gain input related to the coordination of ETV and Chafee Foster Care Program funding and services to eligible youth and staff on the reservation. Special emphasis has been placed on meeting the needs of Native American youth. The Independent Living Program Specialist and ICWA Program Specialist have made each tribe aware of available services and opportunities available to Native American youth age 18 who was formerly in foster care under tribal jurisdiction. In addition, financial assistance for post-secondary education and training is available to eligible tribal youth through the ETV.

The ICWA Program Specialist shares emails with the BIA, Tribal and ICWA contacts informing them of the ETV Scholarship Funding. The ICWA Program Specialist shared information on how to register for the ETV scholarship funds in June 2017, August 2017, December 2017 and June 2018.

Native American youth are and will continue to be involved in all aspects of the ILS program. Special attention is given to ensuring the independent living resources and CRP's services are available to youth living on the reservation. The ICWA Program Specialist created a contact list for each of the tribes. This information is shared with the CRPs. The CRPs use this information to make connections with the tribes. The CRPs are responsible for identifying resources and networking with people on the reservations in their area. Information regarding Chafee services, ETV funds, CRP services, ILS Workshops, Teen Conference and other IL information is shared with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies.

The following chart provides the numbers of youth under BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies information that received information from ETV funds was made with the CRP about ETV funds. CPS had not received referrals during this time frame for those BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies that have no numbers of youth listed.

Reservation	Number of Youth Received Information on the ETV Funds
Cheyenne River Reservation	0
Crow Creek Reservation	0
Flandreau Reservation	0
Lower Brule Reservation	0
Pine Ridge Reservation	1 youth
Rosebud Reservation	1 youth
Sisseton Wahpeton	1 youth
Standing Rock Reservation	1 youth
Yankton Sioux Reservation	0

The CRPs will meet with interested youth to discuss their education plans and assist with the application for college, the ETV, and other financial support.

#### **Application process:**

The DSS/CPS website has information about the application and process. The following documents are required to be included with the application.

- Signed statement from post-secondary institution regarding the justification for funds including the cost of attendance.
- School transcripts
- Goals and motivation statements from youth.
- Acceptance letter from the school or vocational institution.
- A cover letter from the youth's FSS or adoptive parent.
- Last semester grades for subsequent applications.

#### **Criteria for eligible youth:**

Youth in the custody of CPS, the DOC, BIA, and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies have the opportunity to apply for ETV funding to increase their educational attainment levels under this program if they meet the following criteria:

- Youth in foster care at age 18 who have transitioned from foster care in the custody of CPS, DOC, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies.
- Youth who are in foster care and are adopted and/or in guardianship after age 16.
- Youth participating in the ETV Program prior to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday are eligible for the ETV funds up to the age of 23 years old, as long as they are enrolled in a post-secondary or training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of the program.
- Youth who accept the responsibility for completing their part of the educational planning and educational program.

- Youth who maintain positive documentation of progress by demonstrating at least a 2.0 grade point average and submit their grades each semester to the ILS Program Specialist. Youth may be granted a probation period on an individual basis.
- Youth who demonstrate their willingness and commitment to live up to their ETV Program responsibilities.

**Funding for eligible youth:**

- Funds for post-secondary education (plus the costs of supporting completion of their educational plan) shall not exceed \$5,000 per youth, per year.
- Funds can be used for the purchase of the following “cost of attendance” items.
  - Dorm room supplies (linen, etc.)
  - Books
  - Supplies (lab equipment, etc.)
  - Meal plan
  - Bus tokens – parking permit
  - Tuition
  - Student fees - activity card
  - Room/housing costs
  - Transportation costs (if needed for school attendance)
  - Tutoring
  - Employment-related necessities
  - Childcare
  - Tools necessary for the trade
  - Computers
  - On-line education/internet fees
  - Special study projects

These funds will be used after the Pell grant, and other financial aid assistance has been utilized. Education and Training Voucher funds will supplement existing financial assistance with the total amount not to exceed the “cost for attendance” for each post-secondary institution.

**Educational assistance included:**

South Dakota approves cost for higher education that shall not exceed \$5,000 or the total “cost of attendance”, whichever is the less as defined in sections 472 of the High Education Act.

The FSSs and CRPs will work with youth through their ILS plan to coordinate funding sources, to maximize the use of ETV funding and to avoid duplication. The ILS Program Specialist acts as a

checkpoint to ensure that all resources are utilized and benefits are not duplicated. The final decision rests with the DSS/CPS. The State certifies the program not to duplicate benefits.

The following is a highlight from the CRP with a youth continuing her education:

A youth, turning 18 in July, decided to stay in care with her aunt. She recently had a child and right before this graduated from high school at St. Francis. The baby and the mother are doing exceptionally well; she feels that all of her needs are being met. After graduating and having her child she applied for college at USD and SDSU, she has been accepted to both colleges. CRP will assist her with ETV application, food, and baby items.

It is critical youth graduate from high school or receives a GED and continue on to post-secondary training. The services associated with the independent living program to assist youth include:

1. During the *Age 16 Planning Meeting* and *Age 17 Planning Meeting*, anyone involved with the youth is invited such as FSSs, group care staff, CRPs, Department of Labor and Regulation staff, siblings, birth family members, foster parent, mentor or friends. The process involves: the exit interview, the independent living checklist, review of the Casey Life Skills Assessment, recruitment of support persons or mentors, expanded education plans, exploration of employment options, annual credit report checks, housing and medical assistance information, starter kit incentive program, and individual services to assist youth in preparing for further education/training, as well as establish goals for their last year in custody. Before the meeting ends, the youth are encouraged to seek, identify, and build supportive relationships with mentors, family mentors, and friends. Youth will be encouraged to participate in their semi-annual Permanency Planning Review Team Meeting. The results of the meeting are incorporated into the youth's individual plan.
2. The Teen Conference and ILS Workshops assist youth to become knowledgeable about post-secondary training and educational institutions. The Teen Conference is held at college or technical institute campus setting so youth have an opportunity to experience and gain knowledge of independent living skills and what it would be like to stay in the dorms while attending the Teen Conference. In June 2018, the Teen Conference was held at a college campus in Rapid City, South Dakota so youth would have a chance to experience college life during the week of the Teen Conference by having the youth live in the dorm and be on campus. The ILS Workshops sessions focus on the different colleges and technical institutes in the state. The ILS Workshops also includes activities and presentations related to post-secondary education to educate youth on the importance of continuing their education. During the Teen Conference, there were 84 youth that received a campus tour. During the July, 1 2017 to May 31, 2018, the CRPs provided 48 youth tours at post-secondary schools.
3. Department of Labor and Regulation provides individual services to assist high school graduates in preparing for further education/training. The Department of Labor and Regulation provides classes on topics which include applying for school, completing financial aid forms, college life, and etc. During the 2018 Teen Conference, Department of Labor and Regulation provided a mock interview to 84 youth attending the conference. The interview was to demonstrate a good interview compared an interview on what not to do with a potential employer. The youth had many questions for the presenter after the mock interview.
4. The CRPs work with the youth as they enter and continue with post-secondary school. The CRPs could work with the youth up to age 23 if the youth is still receiving the ETV funds. This would be a youth from CPS, DOC, BIA and Tribal child welfare.

5. The CRPs will continue to educate youth in foster care about the importance of attending a post-secondary school, work with youth on campus life, and educate youth on services that are available to them.
6. *SDMyLife* through the Department of Education is designed to assist youth with career guidance needs such as career matching, career exploration, post-secondary education planning, and My Portfolio development. Each of these sections can be used on its own. For instance, someone interested in exploring careers could spend days simply learning about different careers and viewing the multimedia interviews with people in those careers. The CRP is able to use this program to assist youth in foster care in providing resources to them. The Department of Education Program Specialist was invited to present *SDMyLife* at the 2018 Teen Conference to assist youth with career opportunities. The following is the *SDMyLife* website: <http://sdmylife.com>
7. A special emphasis will be placed on meeting the needs of Native American youth. The ETV Program is available and advertised to this population. The Independent Living Program Specialist collaborates with the ICWA Program Specialist to send information about the ETV Program, ILS Workshops and Teen Conference to the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies. The CRPs provide contact by email, calls, and letters to the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies and also work with the youth to assist youth with ILS services and skills to assist the youth in preparing for adulthood.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services, as the state agency responsible for administering, supervising and overseeing the ETV Program will continue to collaborate with a variety of contacts in the state such as DOC, Department of Labor and Regulation Department of Education, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies and others in South Dakota to assist youth. The ETV Program has been a valuable resource to assist youth in reaching their goals and successful independence.

Congress enacted Public Law 115-123, the Family First Prevention Service Act and P.L. 115-141, the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2018 on February 9, 2018 and the program instructions was issued on May 31, 2018. In moving forward in SFY 2019, DSS/CPS will expand to supports young adults to participate in the ETV voucher program and to remain eligible until they attain 26 years of age, as long as they are enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of the program. In no event will a young adult participate in the program for more than five years (whether or not the years are consecutive). The ILS Program Specialist will share this change with CPS staff and CRPs, ILS Workgroup, ILS Workshops, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies, Young Voices and by making updates to the ILS website and ETV brochure. The ILS Program Specialist will also be working with the Division of Economic Assistance, Former Foster Care Medicals Assistance Program staff and young adults enrolled in this program.

## **XVI. STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM**

FACIS/Intake training for newly hired staff is scheduled approximately six times per year. If there is a major enhancement, specialized training occurs in offices or via electronic format such as Live Meeting. In April 2015, CPS completely revamped the Client Assessment screens to enhance information and oversight regarding educational status, educational stability, psychotropic medication monitoring, trauma assessment/treatment and records requests. Training was provided to all staff via Lync sessions. In addition to the regular FACIS/Intake training, specialized training is provided for staff as needed including Tribal and private agency staff.

Quantitative data reports are enhanced as needed based on changing requirements or areas of focus. The data reports are also provided to offices/regions as they develop and implement CQI plans in specific areas of focus. For example, an office may be working on a targeted recruitment plan and reports are provided regarding the demographics of children in care in their specific area.

South Dakota's FACIS system includes compliance reports which provide real-time access to items missing information in the system. These compliance reports can be used with staff during their regular staffings with supervisors. Ongoing training in specific areas is provided by request of the office or region. Training on FACIS data reports is provided to various levels of the management team on an as needed basis. In September 2014, the FACIS Project Manager provided training on specific reports, accessing reports and functionality to drill-down to specific case level data on many reports to supervisors at the CPS Supervisors' statewide meeting.

The FACIS Team & Management Team members use the appropriate data quality utilities and tools provided to ensure data is accurate. These include using the AFCARS Data Quality, Compliance & Frequency Reports, NYTD NDRU & NCANDS portal programs to review data prior to submission. Any data errors found are addressed and corrected wherever possible. Staff have consistently shared they use the Compliance Reports generated in FACIS to monitor their caseloads and required data entry.

Quality data collection, both qualitative and quantitative, is a strength for South Dakota as evidenced by the information available through reports. Challenges within the area of data collection continue to center around ensuring staff enter data in a timely manner in order for the various reports to capture the necessary data. This can be monitored through various reports on FACIS and efforts will be made to make improvements where needed. South Dakota does have some areas needing improvement in AFCARS reporting and has an ongoing AFCARS Improvement Plan. In April 2015, the FACIS Project Manager completed entry of test information into an AFCARS Test Deck database. Extractions for requested AFCARS submission periods were submitted along with the case scenario documentation the week of April 20, 2015.

The state will continue to develop functions in the system for federal requirements such as AFCARS, NYTD, IVE Eligibility and funds reconciliation. As CPS practice is enhanced in South Dakota in safety, permanency, and well-being, the necessary system changes to support the program will be made. The program changes necessary in South Dakota for best practice will drive system changes. The system will not drive the practice used to deliver services to children and families.

### **2019 Progress Update**

Parent Visit screens were added December 30, 2016. This included changes to the Family Matrix screen to identify parents and caretakers who require a visit during the full month of services. This applies to both in-home services and placement cases. Case Compliance Report was updated to capture parents and caretakers due for a visit in the current month and overdue for a visit in previous months. The rows display the details including client ID, client name & visit months.

CPS upgraded the case narrative screens to include separate tabs for the areas workers are required to cover in each visit with the child(ren) and parents & caretakers. Currently, workers

follow a template guide to assist in covering and accurately documenting the observations or discussions in each area. There are edit checks to require workers to document information in each tab. CPS made this enhancement to improve quality and consistency in case narrative documentation statewide.

CPS upgraded the case narrative screens to interact directly with the caseworker visit screens. Workers no longer need to separately access the caseworker visit screen when documenting visits. The worker uses the case narrative screen to document the content of the visit, select children visited and whether the visit was in the residence. Once the worker saves the case narrative; the system automatically populates the caseworker visit screen with the corresponding date & notation regarding in residence or not. Workers only need to access the caseworker visit screen directly if the child was not seen in a specific month.

CPS developed two corresponding reports to reflect the addition of parent visit screens and case narrative changes: Caseworker Visits Report with Parents and Caseworker Visits Parents Not Visited.

#### AFCARS Improvement Plan Updates:

CPS received Element & General Requirement AIP documentation from ACF. On September 29, 2016, CPS submitted official AFCARS PIP updates including documentation of proposed changes, current AFCARS extraction code, AFCARS mapping documents and other related documents. There were several areas needing improvement. Changes or corrections were completed by December 2016. South Dakota's FFY 2017A submission will include the following changes.

Three areas required actual screen changes.

- September 27, 2016; CPS added an end date on the Diagnosed Conditions AFCARS screen to capture end dates for diagnosed conditions.
- December 12, 2016; CPS added a new service Runaway to capture situations where CPS received custody of a child whose status is runaway.
- December 12, 2016; CPS added a field to the discharge screen to accurately reflect circumstances when the placement was less than 24 hours. These children are to be excluded from AFCARS files. Prior to this change, children were being included.

Five areas required AFCARS extraction code changes.

- Exclude children over age 18 & IVE ineligible.
- Exclude TPR dates after the report period end date.
- Exclude periodic review dates after the report period end date.
- For hospital, mental health & juvenile detention stays; report the current placement setting and number of placements.
- For child moves within the same campus, do not count as a placement change.

On 12/08/2017, the State submitted a new AIP update. CPS received a further response to our AIP submission on 01/16/2018. The response indicated areas still needing improvements or corrections. The State will provide clarification of the logic in the extraction code.

Items found requiring corrections were:

- Element 17: Inconsistency between element 16 & 17. The State was incorrectly coding 17 to blank when 16 was Unable to Be Determined. The extraction has been corrected in the 2018A submission.
- Element 24: If runaway is the only placement in the reporting period, element #24 count of placements should be zero. The State was incorrectly counting this as 1. The extraction has been corrected in the 2018A submission.
- Element 43: The extract code should set records to blank for cases where no case plan goal is entered and the child has been in foster care for 61 or more days. Not Yet

Established should only be set if there is no goal entered and the child has been in care for 60 days or less. The State needs to finish reviewing the current extraction and test proposed revisions to the code.

Updated AIP will be submitted by June 1, 2018

Electronic Payment Updates:

The contract with a private agency for electronic payments ended. The State of South Dakota signed a new contract with a different private agency. Conduent is the new electronic payment provider. The change in the contract required numerous informational and planning meetings with the new provider. As well, the new provider required changes to FACIS screens. CPS began making payments via the new provider effective 02/26/2018.

Due to the extensive work on this project as well as other priorities and initiatives in the past year, CPS has not completed any further evaluation or work focused on adding additional resources to electronic deposits. Those providers who have enrolled are being paid without any known concerns or delays in payments.

## XVII. WORKFORCE INFORMATION

### 2019 Progress Update

The state of South Dakota personnel qualifications for individuals to apply for CPS positions is based on knowledge, skills, and abilities. CPS hires staff with relevant degrees and experience for all positions. There are minimal circumstances when an individual was hired without a college degree. Those usually occur in areas of the state where filling positions is problematic. The training for new Family Services Specialists and ongoing training are described in the Staff Training Section of the APSR. All staff are required to receive 208 hours of initial training, which is completed approximately within the first year of employment. Staff are then required to receive at least 4 hours of ongoing training each year thereafter.

Based on demographics of a rural state, turnover, staffing and the number of small offices, it was determined by management caseload standards would be difficult to establish and maintain. The CPS Management Team is in the process of reviewing workload.

### Child Protection Services Turnover Rate

State Fiscal Year	2016	2017	2018*
Turnover Rate	19.0%	18.1%	19.8%

	FY17	FY18 (preliminary)
Family Services Specialist	24.1%	25.6%
Family Services Specialist Supervisor	5.6%	0.0%

\*Preliminary calendar year turnover rates; data current as of 5/23/2018

### STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

Type of Staff	Number of Staff	Race	Degree	Average Number of Years
Supervisor	37	American Indian or Alaska Native: 3 Asian: 1 Black or African American: 0	Master's Degree: 4 Bachelor of Arts: 7 Bachelor of Science: 20	13 Years

		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 0  White: 33	Bachelor of Social Work: 4  Associate Degree: 0  High School Diploma: 2	
Family Services Specialists	171	American Indian or Alaska Native: 12  Asian: 0  Black or African American: 1  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 0  White: 158	Master's Degree: 14  Bachelor of Arts: 35  Bachelor of Science: 95  Bachelor of Social Work: 17  Associate Degree: 5  High School Diploma: 5	5.5 Years

## **XVIII. JUVENILE JUSTICE TRANSFERS**

One youth were transferred to the Juvenile Justice System (Juvenile Services, Department of Corrections) in State Fiscal Year 2018. The youth included in this population are those who were in the custody of CPS, custody through CPS was terminated, and the youth were committed to the Department of Corrections. This information is obtained through the FACIS system based on discharge reason.

## **XIX. FINANCIAL REPORTING**

Amount South Dakota expended in FFY 2005 for child care, foster care maintenance payments, and adoption assistance:

\$257,686.00

Amount of non-federal funds South Dakota expended in FFY 2005:

\$85,895.00

### **STATE AND LOCAL SHARE SPENDING FOR IV-B SUBPART 2**

South Dakota's initial allocation for Subpart 2 was in 1996 and the state/local share was:

\$110,044.97

South Dakota's state and local share for FFY 2015 was:

\$226,940.00

**South Dakota Department of Social Services  
Disaster Plan**

There were no changes or additions made to the Department's disaster plan since the 2018 APSR was submitted.